Legislature to use $439.8K ARPA funding to have own power generator. PAGE 2
Initial inventory of IPI's personal property completed. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1 Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 227

www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2023 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

### IF CONSTRUCTION TAX BILL ENACTED, IMPLEMENTED

# 'CNMI expects $8.1M tax revenue'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Yumul

The House of Representatives' fiscal impact analysis shows that the CNMI could expect $8.1 million in tax revenue over a five-year period when a construction tax bill is enacted and implemented.

In total, there are 14 capital improvement projects and grant awards that are listed in the five-year plan with an expected $288,420,598 spending costs for these projects, said House fiscal analyst Thomas Rabago.

House Bill 23-74, House Draft 1, seeks to impose an additional 3% tax on the yearly gross revenue on construction activities in excess

See TAX on Page 4

## House seeks to amend crime of child abuse

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Omar

The House of Representatives passed Monday a bill that will amend the crime of child abuse to include conduct that places a child in imminent danger through the presence of methamphetamine.

With 18 House members voting "yes," House Bill 23-45, House Substitute 1, now goes to the Senate for action.

Rep. Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona (R-Saipan) was absent but excused from the session. Rep. Julie

See HOUSE on Page 4

## Torres' motion to disqualify Kingman is denied

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Torres

After months of waiting for a decision, Superior Court judge pro tem Arthur Barcinas has finally ruled to allow assistant attorney general James Kingman to prosecute the case against former governor Ralph DLG Torres.

Barcinas denied Monday Torres' motion to disqualify Kingman after determining that Kingman has not engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.

Torres had sought Kingman's disqualification for alleged unauthorized practice of law. One of the arguments made by Torres' defense team was that Kingman was unauthorized to practice law in the CNMI because he did not take the oath of admission every attorney practicing law in the CNMI has taken while he was still practicing law *pro hac vice*.

*Pro hac vice* means a lawyer who has not been admitted to practice in a certain

See TORRES on Page 4

## Konfitma 2023 training begins

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Konfitma 2023, a series of training scenarios curated to help prepare CNMI front-liners for dangerous situations, officially started yesterday, with Saipan's streets crawling with emergency vehicles and first responders.

Sirens could be heard from nearly every direction on Saipan as first responders responded to simulated real-life

See KONFITMA on Page 4

CONTIBUTED PHOTO
The 2023 Konfitma Training that began yesterday had first responders respond to simulated real-life scenarios like active shootings, mass care, and biochemical cleanups.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Local front-liners respond to simulated, real-life scenarios during the 2023 Konfitma Training that began yesterday.

## INSIDE

**BUSINESS**
President Joe Biden celebrated a "new era" in the relationship between the United States and Indonesia as he met with Indonesian President Joko Widodo.
PAE 11

**NATION**
The Republican Party's once-crowded 2024 presidential primary field has suddenly shrunk to just a handful of viable candidates.
PAGE 12

**WORLD**
Battles between Israel and Hamas around hospitals forced thousands of Palestinians to flee from some of the last perceived safe places in northern Gaza.
PAGE 13

GOT A NEWS TIP?
TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

# Local

## Legislature to use $439.8K ARPA funding to have own power generator

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Legislature is expected to soon have its own electric power generator building and fuel tank using $439,800 in American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Legislative Bureau director Perry John P. Tenorio said yesterday that the project to build a generator building, a fuel tank, and upgrade the legislative building's electrical system started in October 2022.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Roman Demapan, project manager for the CNMI Legislature's project to have an electric power generator building, left, tells a contractor about the need to have a smaller tank aside from the big fuel tank as specified in the project's design last Thursday. The project is expected to be completed within 180 days.

The project stopped in April 2023 and restarted this month, Tenorio said, and is set to be completed within 180 days. He did not indicate why it was stopped last April.

When asked why the Legislature needs to have its own power generator, Tenorio said that power outages still happen from time to time despite the significant gains the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has made in providing stable power on Saipan.

At the same time, he said, extended power disruptions caused by natural disasters are still very real.

As to how much power it will produce, he deferred the question to their project manager, Roman Demapan. He said the Legislature will maintain the generator.


ZONING

... to improve our island's quality of life!

The Zoning Office will be initiating its islandwide **Clean- Healthy-Attractive and Safe** campaign beginning **November 17th** to enforce and issue notices of violation on-site for any issues found to be in violation of the Zoning Law, including but not limited to the following. We ask for your understanding and cooperation to perform immediate corrective actions if any of these apply to your property and/ or your business:

**Structures/ Buildings:**

1. Comply with your Zoning permit conditions
2. Cease any unpermitted construction activity and apply for Zoning permit to comply with requirements (setbacks, parking, landscaping, etc.)
3. Completely remove remaining portion(s) of dilapidated structures

**Signs:**

1. Comply with your Zoning sign permit conditions
2. Damaged signs for windows, buildings, and ground (repair them if already permitted, or remove and apply for a Zoning sign permit for allowable signs)
3. Unpermitted signs (remove and apply for Zoning sign permit to meet requirements)
4. Ground signs installed away from the lot where your establishment/ business is located. (remove and apply for Temporary sign permit for proper locations).
   Owners of signs installed prior to February 8, 2008 are encouraged to visit our office to register the signs and obtain assistance for steps to improve

**Parking:**

1. Comply with your Zoning permit conditions
2. Paint and clearly mark parking stalls
3. Vehicles and heavy equipment machineries shall not be parked on the public right-of-way
4. Screen all permitted junkyards and parking areas for vehicles awaiting repair from public view, except in Industrial zones. (Visit or call the Zoning office for acceptable screening materials)

**Landscaping:**

1. Comply with your Zoning permit conditions
2. Plant attractive and decorative plants/ flowers on your front yards for aesthetics and screening. Call the Zoning Office for setback requirements.

**Public nuisance:**

1. Remove junk cars and appliances in public view and right of way (call Zoning for information and assistance on the proper disposal process)
2. Remove trash bins from right of way and screen them from public view
3. Remove clothes hanging in public view on main thoroughfares or major roadways and within the tourist related districts (Garapan Core, Garapan East, Beach Road, and Tourist Resort)
4. Clean front yards from overgrown vegetations
5. Completely remove remaining portion(s) of dilapidated structures

**Cargo containers:**

1. Comply with your Zoning permit conditions
2. Containers used for storage must be screened from public view and located on the rear or side of your property
3. Containers must be removed from the property within 5 days after offloading of contents

**Fence:**

1. Apply for Temporary permit for proper fencing materials, appearance, placement, and setbacks
2. Cargo containers, plywoods, or sheet metals shall not be used for fencing
3. Chain link fence shall not be used in front yards visible from a public right of way, pedestrian area, or parking lot

Please call or visit our office for more information or to schedule meeting for assistance to guide you through compliance procedures. *Be further advised that failure to comply with the requirements of the Zoning Law will be subject to a civil fine of up to $1,000 per day for each day the violation occurs.*

Thank you for joining us in keeping our island communities

**"clean, healthy, attractive, and safe"**

Tel: 234-9661/2 • Location: Chalan Laulau, Chalan Pale Arnold (Middle Road)


## SHS to hold 1st-ever pop-up clinic on Rota this Saturday

SHS

Saipan Humane Society encourages Rota residents to bring their dogs for vaccinations, flea and tick medicine, sick consultations, and maybe even some pet food for this Saturday's pop-up clinic in Songsong Village from 10am to 4pm

In its continuous effort to expand its reach, Saipan Humane Society will be hosting its first-ever pop-up clinic this Saturday, Nov. 18, in Song Song Village, Rota.

The event will take place from 10am to 4pm, providing a range of animal health services. This outreach initiative aims to bring assistance to pets and their owners on Rota, where there is a significant lack of access to animal health services. This outreach event is made possible by Veterinarians Without Borders.

Responding to the needs of working individuals who find it challenging to attend weekday clinics, SHS hosted its first-ever Saturday clinic last Nov. 4.

The event, held at the Saipan Mayor Office's dog shelter, garnered an overwhelming response, with 41 patients receiving comprehensive care, including vaccinations, flea and tick medication, and sick consultations. This is something the organization hopes to do more regularly.

Over the past six months, SHS has administered over 1,000 vaccines, distributed over 1,000 doses of flea and tick medication, and conducted 500-plus sick consultations and wound care visits.

The organization has also provided close to 400 spay/ neuter surgeries this year, and hopes to expand this number significantly in 2024-2025 through partnerships with large organizations, grant funding and private donations.

SHS remains committed to its mission of promoting responsible pet ownership, providing compassionate care, and advocating for the well-being of all animals.

SHS invites everyone to join it in its efforts to make a positive impact on the lives of the islands' furry friends.

For more information, please follow Saipan Humane Society social media account @saipanhumane. ***(SHS)***

# Initial inventory of IPI's personal property completed

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The limited receiver in the Joshua Gray case against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has filed its initial inventory notice with the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Clear Management Ltd., through lawyer Michael White, filed Friday a notice with the District Court for the NMI informing the court that it has conducted an initial inventory of IPI personal property that will be sold in an auction to satisfy the outstanding judgment the court previously granted in favor of Gray.

The initial inventory list is not complete, though, White said, so Clear Management will have to file a supplemental inventory list on or before Dec. 6.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI granted over a week ago Clear Management's request to modify its limited receivership in the Gray case, giving it three more days to inventory IPI's properties that will be sold off.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona named Clear Management last Oct. 23 as limited receiver to sell certain assets of IPI pursuant to a writ of execution issued by the court on Aug. 16.

The receivership order of Oct. 23 stated that Clear Management will perform a thorough inspection to locate all of IPI's personal property, wherever located, to create an inventory of all specific items in IPI's possession that it believes are subject to the writ and that it intends to sell.

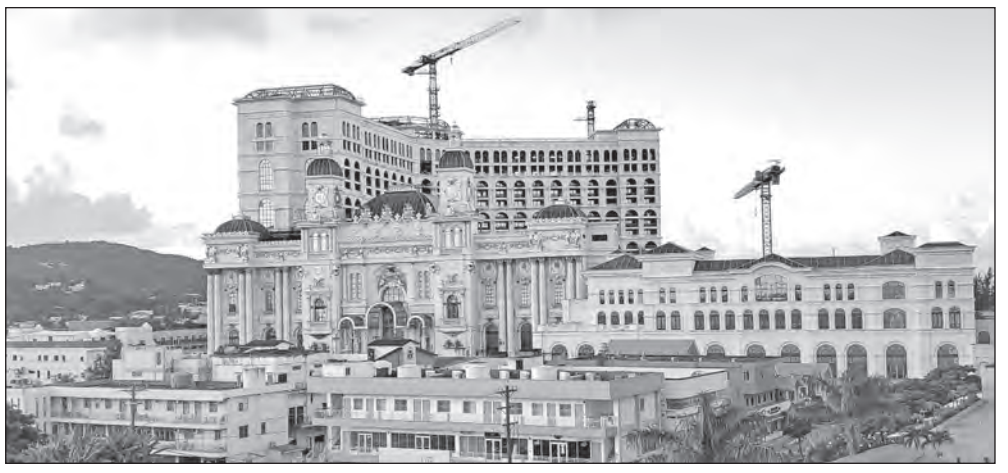
On Nov. 3, Clear Management asked the court to modify this portion of the order to allow Clear Management to file an initial inventory list by Nov. 10, but then to later file a supplemental inventory list on Dec. 6, and additional lists as become necessary.

In her order, Manglona stated that the declaration of Tim Shepherd, a principal of Clear Management, demonstrates that it would not be possible for Clear Management to guarantee that it has inventoried all personal property belonging to IPI by Nov. 6, for a variety of reasons, therefore its motion for modification is warranted.

"Further, Clear Management noted that during its experience as limited receiver…regarding the gaming equipment, it continued to discover new items in unexpected places even after the auction had commenced. Accordingly, Clear Management, with the agreement of… Joshua Gray, requested that it be permitted to file supplemental inventory lists as needed. Clear Management and Gray agree that this is the most prudent path to ensure the efficient and thorough liquidation of IPI's personal property. For good cause appearing, the court hereby grants the request to modify the receivership order. Specifically, Clear Management shall file an initial inventory list on or before Nov. 10. …IPI shall have seven days to file any objections to the inventory…," said Manglona.

In addition, Manglona stated Clear Management must file a supplemental inventory list on or before Dec. 6.

"Clear Management shall then be permitted to file additional supplemental inventory lists as it deems necessary…" said Manglona.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's unfinished Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan is shown in this file photo.

# Youth theater to stage *Property Rites* on Nov. 17-18

The Friends of the Arts is dedicating its 2023-2024 season to young people across the CNMI, starting with a production centered on the issue of artificial intelligence. Entrance is free.

The Friends of the Arts Youth Theatre will be staging the production *Property Rites* this Friday and Saturday, Nov. 17 and 18, starting at 7pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

"Come and enjoy the show and the talent of our youth. There is no charge for admission. Contributions for our youth theater will be accepted and appreciated," said the Friends of the Arts in a mass email yesterday.

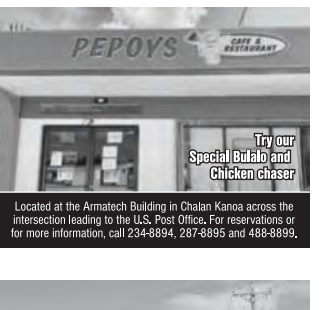
According to the FOA email, the production takes place in an art studio that has invested millions in a high-tech work of art—15 human figure sculptures programmed to perform thousands of movements, monologues, dialogues, and more. But just when the owner is about to sell a sculpture, it "malfunctions"; the figures are "alive."

"As each one struggles to achieve autonomy, they begin a fatal race against their desperate owner's destructive plan. [This play is] an interesting look at the AI issue from both sides," states the FOA email.

This production is just the start of the youth theater's 2023-2024 season. Next up will be a collection of short plays referred to as *The 10 Minute Plays* in February, which will be a production of the FOA Youth Theatre in conjunction with the FOA Community Performers.

"We will then be honored by the annual visit in March by classical pianist, Roman Rudnytsky who will share his talents with the youth of our islands by visiting schools for performances and workshops," states the FOA.

The last production in this youth-oriented series of productions will be an FOA Youth Theatre production of a Broadway musical from the Music Theatre International series of Musicals "Broadway Junior." ***(Saipan Tribune)***


PEPOYS
CAFE & RESTAURANT
Try our
Special Bulalo and
Chicken chaser
Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8899.

*From the management and staff of*
MARFEGA TRADING CO., INC
ISLANDER RENT A CAR
SAIPAN • TINIAN • ROTA • GUAM
P.O. Box 502356 CK, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone: (670)288-0373/(670)234-8233 • Fax: (670)288-0389

ISLANDER Mini Mart Tel.: 234-5031
WESTERN UNION
FAST, RELIABLE, WORLDWIDE MONEY TRANSFER
eCENTER
Ink Refilling & Computer Services
Tel. No.: 670- 233-5252

## HOUSE

*From page 1*

Marie Atalig Ogo (Ind-Rota) was not in the chamber during the voting.

Before the voting, the House adopted the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee's report that recommended the bill's passage. The committee, chaired by Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan), made some amendments.

Rep. Malcolm Jason Omar (Ind-Saipan) introduced the bill last May.

To address the concerns of Chief Public Defender Douglas W. Hartig, the committee tightened the language of the bill by describing that the offense of child abuse includes delivering, possessing, or using meth in the presence of a child; or having meth in close proximity to a child and such child tests positive for the substance. The committee believes this language strengthens the proposed legislation.

The committee finds that there is an increasing concern in the CNMI about the negative effects on children when parents or other members of the household use drugs or engage in illegal drug-related activities, such as the manufacture of methamphetamines in home-based laboratories.

The committee finds that the CNMI, in addition to American Samoa and Puerto Rico, do not possess laws that address the issue of children affected by parental substance abuse.

Other states and territories possess laws that address substance-exposed newborns, children exposed to parental substance use, or both.

The committee underscored the need to prioritize the well-being of children, especially those exposed in some way to illegal drugs.

The committee deems it appropriate to amend the child abuse laws to include exposure to drugs, especially methamphetamine, as a form of child abuse.

Hartig pointed out in his comments that the proposed legislation includes mere possession of methamphetamine, so this means a person who has a very small amount of the substance in his pocket or even in his car trunk is guilty of child abuse if there is a child near them or in the car.

"This seems hard to justify and unjust," Hartig said.

He said these persons are guilty of possession, which is already a punishable felony even for a very small amount, but this should not be child abuse as it has absolutely no effect on any child.

He noted that the first sentence of Section (4) in the proposed legislation criminalizes causing "mental distress," among other things.

He said the second sentence explains what "mental impairment" is, although causing mental impairment is not a crime.

"This is confusing, but can happen when cutting and pasting," said Hartig, adding that they are left with not knowing what is causing mental distress.

"But it seems we are now criminalizing parents, sending them to prison, branding them a felon for stressing their kids out," he said.

Hartig said this is unrelated to drug use and is absurd.

He also pointed out that attorney Richard Miller makes many good points in his comments to the committee. Eighteen other lawyers supported and joined Hartig's comments.

Miller urged the committee to reject this bill and, in the alternative, should consider other models than the Texas statute for such legislation.

Miller said the way to reduce exposing children of drug addicts to methamphetamine is to make effective drug treatment much more available to their parents outside the criminal justice system.

Miller said the children of addicts are already adequately protected by the civil process under the authority of the Division of Youth Services to assume custody of at-risk youth and provide foster homes and guardians.

"Throwing their addicted parents in prison for up to five years, as this bill proposes, will only burden taxpayers with the costs of prosecution and correctional housing, without doing anything to solve the root problem: drug addiction and the woeful inadequacy of addiction treatment options in the Commonwealth," he said.

Miller said any amendment to the CNMI's child abuse statute should be careful not to turn pregnant addicts and the doctors who treat them into criminals.

He noted that under the proposed amendment, prosecutors might file charges against a pregnant woman who uses methamphetamine or any other substance that could affect the health and development of the child she bears.

"As a Commonwealth, we should be encouraging pregnant women who have a drug or alcohol problem to seek treatment rather than hide their addiction out of fear of criminal prosecution," the lawyer said.

He said the Texas statute that this bill appears to be based on is not a good fit for the CNMI. Miller said the Texas statute contains broad language that criminalizes any reckless conduct that places a child in harm's way.

He said the CNMI's current child abuse statute already addresses this sort of conduct more than adequately.

Fourteen other lawyers, including Hartig, joined and concurred with Miller's comments.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan supports the bill. He said that, while the bill does not specifically define "in the presence of a child," the common usage would imply that the child is in the same room or able to observe the conduct.

He said the bill criminalizes any act which would endanger the health and well-being of a child, but specifically is aimed at criminalizing the act of manufacturing, possessing, or ingesting methamphetamine while in the presence of a child.

## TAX

*From page 1*

of $250,000.

By implementing the annual construction tax at 3%, it is projected to generate $761,287 in revenue during first year, Rabago said. The expected revenue in the second year is $1,625,523; third year, $4,221,308; fourth year, $1,192,892; and fifth year, $335,841, for total of $8,136,854, he added.

He based his analysis on the five-year projected plan provided by Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita that depicts a listing of CIP and grant awards that also include the projected total of what those projects will cost to complete within the CNMI.

Rabago's cost-benefit analysis was part of the House Ways and Means Committee report that recommended the passage of the legislation in the form of House draft 1.

The House adopted the committee report during a session on Monday. The bill, however, is on hold pending clarification in Section 102 that refers to non-refundable tax credit.

The committee, chaired by Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) agreed to delete from the proposed legislation a three-year sunset clause.

Yumul is also the principal author of the legislation.

According to the committee, the bill states that in addition to the taxes imposed by the Commonwealth Code (tax on gross revenue), a yearly tax of 3% shall be imposed on the gross revenue directly attributed to or derived from construction activities in excess of $250,000. Any revenue less than this sum shall not be assessed an additional tax.

The committee said the yearly gross revenue tax shall exclude construction activity gross revenue generated by or derived from residential housing construction activities that is intended primarily for living purposes.

For clarity, "residential housing" shall mean construction of individual homes and not apartments or similar activities.

In addition, revenues unrelated to construction activities are not subject to this tax.

The committee said revenues from construction activities for construction projects prior to the effective date of this legislation are exempt from the tax, except for change orders that occur after the effective date of this bill.

During the fiscal year 2024 budget conference committee deliberations, the conferees agreed to push forward with tax bills because there were no other sources of revenue that could address the government's revenue shortfall except for tax hikes.

Several tax bills that garnered the conferees support included the tobacco tax increase, sugar sweetened beverage tax, container tax, betel nut tax, and the construction tax.

The conferees anticipated to pass most, if not all, of these tax hikes to address the shortfall in Medicaid and Group Health and Life Insurance and to prevent further reducing the work hours of government employees.

Yumul said licensed construction contractors are currently paying a tax rate between 2.5% and 5% as set forth in the Commonwealth Code.

## TORRES

*From page 1*

jurisdiction has been authorized to participate in a particular case in that jurisdiction.

According to Barcinas, after reviewing the evidence and arguments presented to him by both parties, he has determined that Kingman was not required to take the oath upon *pro hac vice* admission, and that consequently he did not engage in the unauthorized practice of law.

"The *pro hac vice* process is an extremely limited and particularized path of entry to practice within the Commonwealth judicial system, one which exists as an alternative to bar examination, and one which is ultimately controlled and regulated not by the Board of Law Examiners, as other paths would be, but by the Supreme Court itself. In approving attorney Kingman's *pro hac vice* application, the Supreme Court has found him to be in standing with the *pro hac vice* requirements, and it is not the place of this court to usurp its findings. Therefore, the court finds that attorney Kingman was not required to take the oath upon *pro hac vice* admission, and that consequently not engaged in the unauthorized practice of law," said Barcinas.

Barcinas also touched on Torres' argument that Kingman, in taking his oath on July 13, instead of when he was authorized to practice law p*ro hac vice* in February, is evidence that he had been practicing law illegally.

In response, the judge said he does not find this to be a strong argument that the oath is mandatory.

"Attorney Kingman took the oath because he began his employment with the Attorney General's Office as a Rule 75-2 Assistant Attorney General, which specifically requires the oath by statute. The court does not find that Kingman, having to take the oath as a Rule 75-2 attorney, is dispositive of a finding that the oath is mandatory for Rule 75-1 attorneys," he said.

Barcinas also addressed the defense's concern about Kingman's failure to affix his bar ID number.

"Defendant cites the NMI Supreme Court's General Order No. 2005-100, which states that 'all attorneys licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth Courts shall affix their Commonwealth Bar Association identification number' next to their signatures on all pleadings filed in the courts, and that attorneys admitted *pro hac vice* shall affix their identification number issued by the Clerk of Court of the Commonwealth Supreme Court. Defendant cites this passage as evidence that attorney Kingman should have been issued an identification number upon admission, and that his lack of such identification indicates that he was not truly admitted to practice in the Commonwealth. The court again does not find this to be a strong argument for the necessity of the oath for Rule 75-1 attorneys. Further, Kingman's failure to attach this number to his filing, while it does not comply with the general order, is not necessarily indicative of his not being authorized to practice law in the Commonwealth," said Barcinas.

The OAG filed criminal charges against Torres on April 8, 2022, alleging 12 counts of misconduct in public office, one count of theft, and one count of contempt based on a failure to appear for a legislative subpoena on Dec. 10, 2021.

## KONFITMA

*From page 1*

scenarios like active shootings, mass care, and biochemical cleanups as part of their Konfitma 2023 training.

Participants included the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Department of Corrections, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and the Guam National Guard's Civil Support team. Also joining yesterday's training were the Saipan Airsoft Group and cadets of the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps.

In total, about 179 first responders and volunteers participated in the Konfitma training.

According to HSEM spokesperson Bernard Villagomez, the second day of training will include training scenarios like a hostage situation, active shooter, and response to an improvised explosive device.

"The training is to improve our local agencies' capabilities to responding to different emergency situations. Although we don't want real situations like these to happen, in case they do, then through the help of this kind of training, we are better prepared for them," he said.

In an interview with DPS spokesperson Fred Sato, he said Konfitma is beneficial for DPS officers as well as other first responders because it helps prepare front-liners.

"This training is crucial. Incidents like these—active shooters, biochemical hazards, etc.—these kinds of trainings really help prepare the front-liners to better approach these kinds of incidents and how to manage and contain the scene should it happen," he said.

"We always look forward to these kinds of trainings because every incident is different. The training also mentally prepares officers. Although there is a difference in the mental aspect of exercises compared to real-life situations, at least with this training, when officers get to a scene, they have a general idea of what to do," he added.

In addition, Sato said, Konfitma brings all CNMI front-liners together and helps them work in sync, which is crucial in real-life situations.

"We're also working with partners like DFEMS, CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, etc. It essentially helps keep us in sync with one another when it comes to scenarios like these," Sato said.

Sato said Konfitma also gives the community an idea of what the island scene will be like in case of dangerous situations that involve the entire community.

"Although it may be a slight inconvenience for these next few days, it's all part of giving our front-liners and community members an idea of what it will be like in a real-life situation," he said.

# Aetna is $25K title sponsor of Red Cross fundraiser

Aetna Insurance is a title sponsor of the upcoming 1980's fundraising dinner of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, thanks to a $25,000 donation.

This latest donation is on top of the $25,000 that Aetna Insurance gave the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter to support the Red Cross Walkathon last April.

"We are incredibly grateful to Aetna for their $50,000 donation[s]. …Their generosity enables us to provide humanitarian assistance to those impacted by disasters," said Joshua Wise, chairman of the NMI Chapter board. "Aetna is the government's healthcare provider and is keenly aware of the importance of the Red Cross and its mission of helping those in need. Hassen Khraibani, director of Aetna Business development, along with Aetna's local agent, Pacifica Insurance, are outstanding partners for the Red Cross and we are grateful for their generous financial support."

The donation will be used locally to support the NMI Chapter's programs, including disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts as well as emergency messaging for military families.

The 1980's themed fundraising dinner will be held on Nov. 18 at Kensington Hotel Saipan. The evening will feature dinner, drinks, live entertainment, door prizes and costume contest.

For more information about the Red Cross and how you can help, visit www.redcross.org/nmi or the dinner event page at www.redcross.org/nmigala. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aetna Insurance donates $25,000 to the upcoming 1980's fundraising dinner of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

## E-Land donates $4K-plus to Red Cross fundraiser

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The E-Land group of companies—Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Point Resort—donates door prizes worth more than $4,000 for the Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 1980's fundraising dinner.

The E-Land group of companies—Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Point Resort—have donated door prizes worth more than $4,000 for the Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 1980's fundraising dinner that's taking place on Nov. 18 at Kensington Hotel Saipan.

The donations include a one-night stay at Kensington's Presidential Suite for two with breakfast; two one-night stays at Kensington Royal Deluxe room for two with breakfast; two Kensington Sunday Brunch for two; a one-night stay at PIC Superior room for two; two PIC Sunday brunch for two; four PIC Waterpark passes; one Coral Ocean Point Resort Deluxe room; and two Coral Ocean Point round of golf.

All these gifts will be part of the Red Cross door prizes or used as silent auction items at the dinner.

"The generosity of E-Land enables the Red Cross to meet its fundraising goals. E-Land has been a major donor to the Red Cross for many years. They've provided significant support during special fundraising events like the annual Walkathon as well as critical lifesaving supplies after Typhoon Soudelor and Yutu," according to a Red Cross news release yesterday.

For more information about the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter and how you can help, visit www.redcross.org/nmi or the fundraising dinner page at www.redcross.org/nmigala. ***(PR)***

## Rota to have power service interruption on Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power service interruption on Rota this Saturday, Nov. 18, from 7:30am to 3:30pm.

Areas affected Feeders 1, 2, and 3, while no water wells are affected.

The purpose of the scheduled power service interruption is to allow CUC maintenance staff to perform inspections and services on the Mitsui generator.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we continue to provide reliable service to our customers.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation). ***(CUC)***

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**
**RFP24-CHCC/HIT-001**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOV. 27TH, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**

**"INSTALLATION OF SECURITY DOOR SYSTEM"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

**COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA)**
2390 Beach Road Oleai, Unit 205 I P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245 / 6293 / 7146 I Fax: (670) 235-7147

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

| | |
|---|---|
| **POSITION:** | **COMPTROLLER** |
| **TERM:** | Exempt, two-year contract |
| **LOCATION:** | SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS |
| **ANNUAL SALARY:** | Minimum $70,000.00 |
| **EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** | HR 2023-03 |
| **OPENING DATE:** | October 16, 2023 |
| **CLOSING DATE:** | **UNTIL FILLED** We advise applying as soon as possible as we may close the vacancy early. |

Information for this vacancy announcement can be found on our website at https://developcnmi.com/jva.html and by scanning the QR code below.

For inquiries on the vacancy announcement, please contact Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director at (670) 234-6245 ext. 311 or by email at m.sablan@developcnmi.com.

**/s/ Manuel A. Sablan**
Executive Director

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS**
**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**
**DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES**
**FAMILY & YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**
Kagman Community Center, P.O. Box 501000 C.K., Saipan, MP 96950

THE DCCA DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES IS RECRUITING APPLICANTS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**DYS SPORTS & CULTURAL AWARENESS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

**SAIPAN OFFICE**

Lead Program Worker- 1 POSITION (Part-Time)($15.00 an hour) Up to 32 hours weekly

Program Worker- 5 POSITIONS (Part-Time) ($9.00 an hour) Up to 32 hours weekly

**PROGRAM END DATE: May 31, 2024**

**LEAD PROGRAM WORKER GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**
- Coordinate the overall DYS Sports & Cultural Awareness After School Program
- Develop and implement sports and cultural awareness programs at the Kagman Community Center
- Network with private and public community agencies to fulfill program implementation
- Coordinate all program ads and recruitment efforts of program participants
- Coordinate all program related inventory and supplies
- Complete and submit monthly program reports, or as requested
- Supervise program participants
- Perform other related duties as assigned

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAM WORKER GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**
- Provide support with the coordination and implementation of the overall DYS Sports & Cultural Awareness After School Program
- Provide guidance and supervision to the After School Program participants
- Assist with the development and implementation of the sports and cultural awareness activities at the Kagman Community Center or other identified program site
- Assist with the program participant recruitment efforts
- Assist with the coordination of program related inventory and supplies
- Perform other related duties as assigned

**DEADLINE:** November 22, 2023, 4:30 p.m. (complete package to be dropped off to KCC)
For more information on the application and program requirements, please contact:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Maria Olopai** | **670-237-1015** | mlolopai@dys.gov.mp |
| **Jennifer Tanaka** | **670-237-1017** | jtanaka@dys.gov.mp |
| **Program Email** | **670-237-1018** | fyep@dys.gov.mp |
| **DYS Website** | **670-237-1000** | www.dys.gov.mp |

## ENRIQUEZ PLANTS A TREE

UOG

Roland Quitugua, Invasive Species specialist at the University of Guam, left, assists University of Guam, Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez during the planting of a young *ifit* tree, a local hardwood species at the President's Grove on Monday, Nov. 13.

UOG

On the eve of her investiture as the 12th president of the University of Guam, Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, fourth from left, is joined by members of the UOG community as she plants a young *ifit* tree at the President's Grove on the UOG campus on Monday, Nov. 13. Ifit is a local hardwood species that has become a symbol of resiliency for Guam and its people.

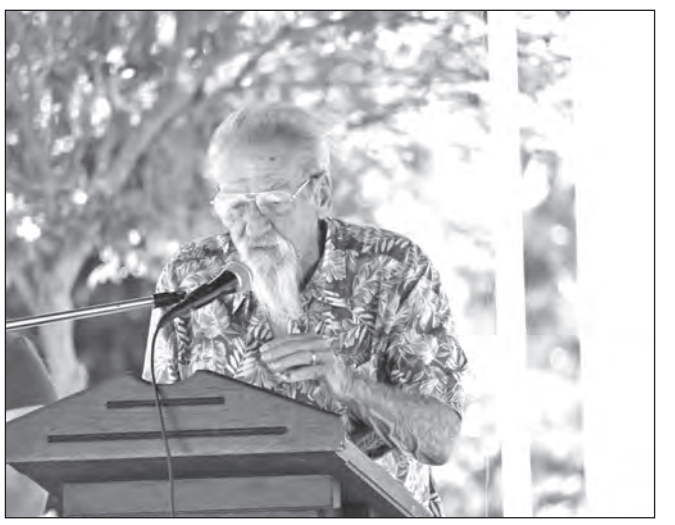
## TINIAN VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

From left, Tinian ROTC battalion commander C/LTC Edward Tirona; Sgt. Aidan Graham, USMC; Don Farrell; acting mayor of Tinian Ann Marie San Nicolas; Cpl. Brock Boucher, USMC; Cpl. Tyler Boden, USMC; and Captain Matthew Jacobs, USAF, OIC, Expeditionary Red Horse squadron during the Veterans Day ceremony on Tinian.

The Tinian ROTC battalion stands at attention.

The Tinian ROTC color guard.



Historian Don Farrell delivers his speech on efforts to place a memorial plaque to honor the men from the 8th Marine Regiment and the 18th Naval Construction Battalion.


**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400007**

**SUBMISSION DATE: December 07, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"Supply and Delivery of a Trailer 60-80 Ton Lowboy with Detachable Neck Hydraulic Rear Ramps Center Boom Well."**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

The project package will be available on or after **November 08, 2023** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **November 24, 2023,** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 29, 2023** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ RAY N. YUMUL**
**SECRETARY, DPW**

**/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.**
**Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services**



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

**AMENDED JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2024**

**Opening date: October 30, 2023 Closing date: November 17, 2023**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Location:** | **SAIPAN** | **SALARY** |
| **Position(s):** | (1) AOA Controller-I | PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr) |
| | (1) ARFF Mechanic II | PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr) |
| | (1) General Maintenance-I | PL 3/1 to 3/12 ($8.01/hr to $13.70/hr) |
| | (1) Master Electrician | PL 19/1 to 19/12 ($17.48/hr to $29.90/hr) |
| **Location:** | **PORT OF SAIPAN** | |
| **Position(s):** | (1) Secretary II | PL 9/1 to 9/12 ($10.73/hr to $18.35/hr) |
| **Location:** | **TINIAN** | **SALARY** |
| **Position(s):** | (1) Custodial | PL 1/1 to 1/12 ($7.26/hr to $12.42/hr) |
| | (1) General Maintenance | PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr) |
| | (4) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee | PL 5/1 ($8.83/hr) |
| **Location:** | **ROTA** | **SALARY** |
| **Position(s):** | (2) Custodial/Maintenance-I | PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr) |

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, **November 17, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

WENDI PRATER
Acting Executive Director

# Coast Guard hosts Pacific Quadrilateral Coordinating Group on Oahu

USCG

Participants of the Pacific Quadrilateral Defense Coordinating Group pose for a group photo during the meeting on Oahu, Hawaii.

**HONOLULU**—The U.S. Coast Guard recently hosted the Pacific Quadrilateral Defense Coordinating Group from Oct. 9 to 11, 2023, focusing on enhancing maritime security in the Pacific.

The meeting gathered leaders from Australia, France, New Zealand, the United States, and the Forum Fisheries Agency. Rear Adm. Michael Day, U.S. Coast Guard District 14 commander, emphasized the importance of this collaboration, particularly in the context of regional challenges such as climate change and security.

"These face-to-face meetings and continued cooperation among our nations are not just strategic imperatives; they are lifelines to the people of the Blue Pacific," said Day.

He further highlighted the impact of this collaboration, emphasizing the human element and recognizing the responsibilities of the larger nations in the Pacific, "We acknowledge the historical context, and while we do not seek to rewrite the past, we are committed to a future where the sovereignty and livelihoods of Pacific Island Countries are safeguarded. Climate change, followed by regional tensions, looms large as challenges we all face, and our shared responsibility is to address these threats. Our commitment to combating illegal fishing and ensuring maritime safety is not just about security; it's about ensuring a sustainable and secure future for the communities who call the Pacific home."

The Pacific QUAD was established in 1998, and brings together defense and security agencies from Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States in a mutual commitment to partnering with the Pacific Island countries to collectively enhance regional security.

During the meeting, discussions covered various topics, including their annual report, training programs, tactical calendar, information sharing and support for the Forum Fisheries Agency operations. Additionally, three new principals joined the group. Brig. Gen. Yann Latil (France), Air Comm. John Haly (Australia), and Brig. Gen. Andy Shaw (Aotearoa New Zealand).

The Pacific QUAD's mission is to combat illegal fishing in the Southwest Pacific and collaborate closely with Pacific Island nations. The group operates at both a strategic and operational level, with annual and biannual meetings, respectively.

This year, examples of their collaboration included: an agreement with New Zealand, joint gatherings and strengthening cooperation with Australian Maritime Security Advisors, a successful search and rescue operation, and an international mass rescue exercise, highlighting the positive impact of their efforts on regional stability and maritime safety.

The Pacific QUAD, consisting of New Zealand, the United States, France, and Australia, annually rotates its principal chairmanship position as part of its collaborative approach. Last year, Air Commodore Darryn Robert Webb of New Zealand handed over the role to Rear Adm. Michael Day, who has now passed it to Brig. Gen. Yann Latil, the commander of French Forces New Caledonia. Latil is expected to transfer the responsibility to Air Commodore John Haly, the Australian Joint Operations Command, Director General Operations and Plans (J3), next year. This rotation underscores the ongoing commitment of the Pacific QUAD nations to regional stability and cooperation.

"After a very successful meeting in Honolulu this year, I am happy to take over the American coordination of the Pacific Quad's work and I look forward to hosting my fellow principals and their teams in Noumea next year," said Brig. Gen. Yann Latil, the commander of French Forces New Caledonia.

U.S. Coast Guard District 14, covering a vast area in the Central and Western Pacific, plays a crucial role in maritime safety, resource protection, security and national defense through partnerships and international engagement. ***(USCG)***

USCG

The recent Pacific Quadrilateral Defense Coordinating Group meeting gathered leaders from Australia, France, New Zealand, the United States, and the Forum Fisheries Agency..

USCG

The meeting covered various topics, including their annual report, training programs, tactical calendar, information sharing and support for the Forum Fisheries Agency operations.

USCG

Participants of the Pacific QUAD meeting get a bird's eye view of the Hawaiian coastline.

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 227

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Mark Rabago** EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

# Hamas' goal is to kill and create 'permanent' conflict

Former President Barack Obama has shamefully come down on the side of moral equivalence in the Middle East. He should know better.

In an interview released Saturday, Obama implied that Israel and Hamas are both to blame for the ongoing fighting. "Nobody's hands are clean," he said, adding, "All of us are complicit to some degree."

This helps explain why America's relationship with Israel was fraught with tensions during Obama's eight years in the White House. The Obama administration's preferred diplomatic approach was to appease Iran with pallets of cash in hopes it would rein in its terrorist proxies, Hamas and Hezbollah. Meanwhile, "The Obama strategy of pressuring Israel and indulging the Palestinians made no progress toward peace," The Wall Street Journal's Elliot Kaufman noted this week.

Obama's policies were utter failures. And his implication that bloodthirsty Hamas terrorists and Israel are equally at fault for stoking the flames of war is as dangerous as it is naive.

On Wednesday, The New York Times published interviews with various Hamas officials who are reveling in the carnage—even the deaths of their own people.

The Oct. 7 attack and the subsequent bloodshed are necessary to "change the entire equation and not just have a clash," Khalil al-Hayya, a member of Hamas' top leadership body, told the newspaper from Doha, Qatar. "We succeeded in putting the Palestinian issue back on the table, and now no one in the region is experiencing calm."

Far from seeking peace, another Hamas higher-up told the Times that the group wants a "permanent" conflict with Israel in hopes of uniting various Arab nations against the Jewish state. The goal is to wipe Israel off the map and establish a Palestinian-Islamist state in its place.

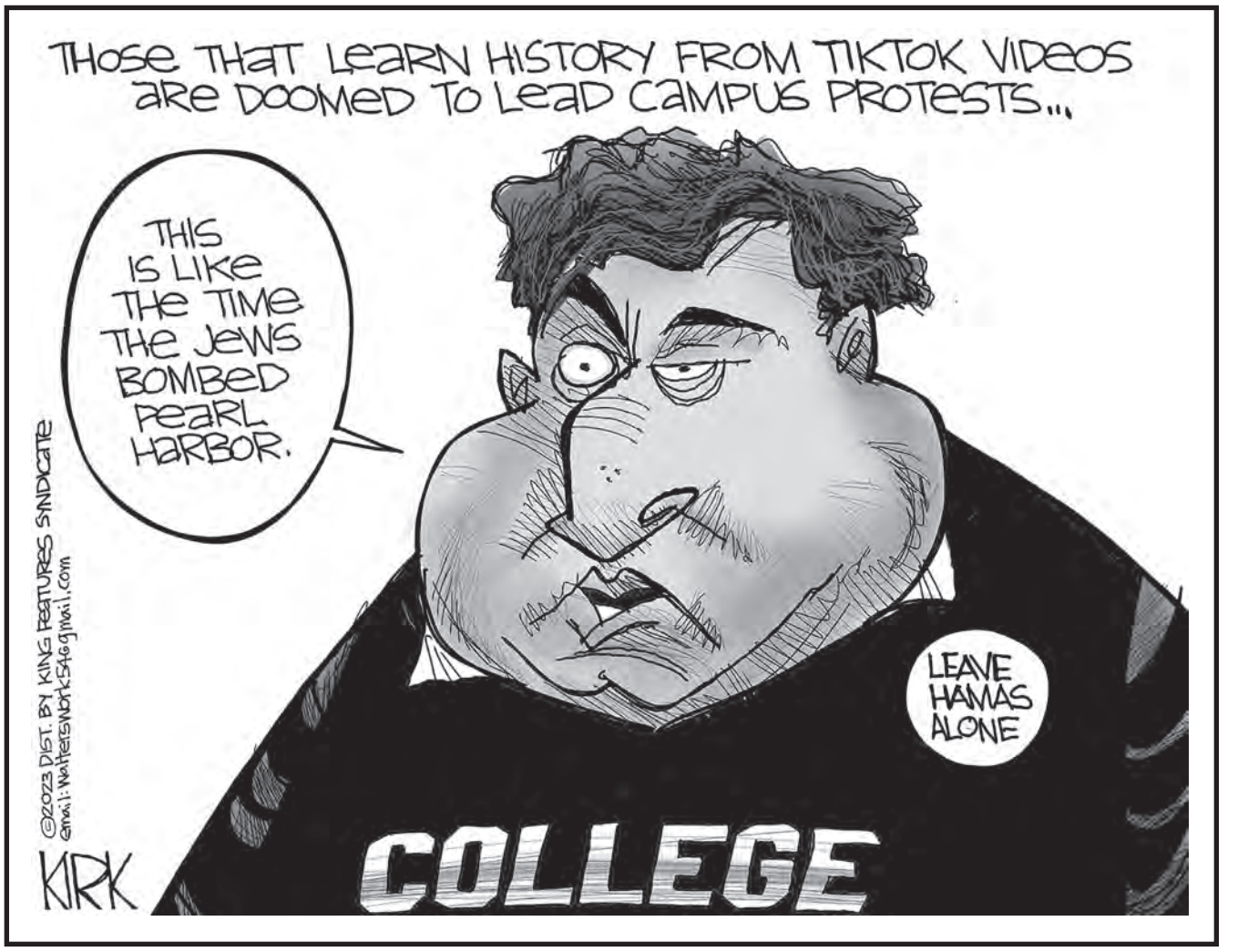
As for those living in Gaza, the territory that Hamas runs? The group could not care less about bettering conditions for its own people or minimizing civilian deaths during war. Quite the opposite.

"This battle was not because we wanted fuel or laborers," al-Hayya said to the Times. "It did not seek to improve the situation in Gaza. This battle is to completely overthrow the situation."

Indeed, Israel Defense Forces have released photos of Hamas rocket launchers located near mosques, nurseries and schools. The group not only seeks to kill innocent Israelis, it purposely puts its own citizens at risk in order to use their deaths for propaganda purposes.

This is whom Obama puts on equal moral footing with Israel, a functioning democracy fighting for its existence? Shameful.

©2023 Las Vegas Review-Journal


THOSE THAT LEARN HISTORY FROM TIKTOK VIDEOS ARE DOOMED TO LEAD CAMPUS PROTESTS...
THIS IS LIKE THE TIME THE JEWS BOMBED PEARL HARBOR.
LEAVE HAMAS ALONE
COLLEGE
©2023 DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
email: walterswork54@gmail.com
KIRK

# Sitting down all day is killing us. The cure is surprisingly simple—and difficult

By MANOUSH ZOMORODI and KEITH DIAZ
LOS ANGELES TIMES

From head to toe, our bodies are adapting to accommodate our devices. A majority of U.S. workers spend most of each weekday seated and looking at screens. We've thereby put ourselves in the midst of a slow-moving health crisis marked by alarming rates of early-onset diabetes and hypertension. Plus, by the end of most days—though it's not the preferred medical terminology—we just feel like crap.

Many of us ignore our Apple Watches' insistent, buzzing reminders to get up and move. Others work out before heading to our desks, mistakenly assuming an early-morning sweat makes up for the hours of sitting to come. And then there are the disciples of the standing desk, which unfortunately won't fix our irregular blood sugar and lipid levels either.

After setting out to pinpoint the minimum amount of movement needed to offset the harms of our sedentary lives, Columbia University Medical Center researchers found that five minutes of gentle walking every half an hour does the trick. That's easy to do if you're in a controlled study in a Columbia exercise lab, where a clinician taps you on the shoulder every 30 minutes and leads you away from your laptop to a treadmill set to 2 mph. But what about in the real world? Is it possible to add regular movement breaks to our deadline-filled days? Sure, we might be able to tolerate the exercise, but what about the interruptions?

That's what we tried to find out over three weeks this fall with an unusual project: We asked National Public Radio listeners to join a study run by the same Columbia researchers to see whether they could incorporate regular movement breaks or "snacks" into their day and report back on why they could … or couldn't. More than 20,000 people signed up (nearly crashing the system). Here's what we found out:

Movement breaks improved mental health too. Participants were in a better mood on days when they took movement breaks, reporting more positive emotions and fewer negative feelings. They also felt more energized, reporting an average 25% reduction in fatigue.

The breaks didn't hurt job performance. Participants reported that they felt more engaged in their work and showed slight improvements in work quantity and quality on days when they took movement breaks.

But making time for frequent breaks is hard. Many participants struggled to take movement breaks from their daily routines every half an hour. Only 50% reported being able to take movement breaks that often. The commonly cited barriers were pressure to be productive at work, feeling too busy to take a break and concerns about disrupting workplace cultural norms.

Participants found that taking movement breaks every hour or two was more realistic and less disruptive to their daily lives, with 70% to 80% of participants reporting taking regular breaks at these intervals. However, feeling too busy and work performance pressures were still regularly reported as barriers even to these less frequent breaks.

Our findings show that public interest and participation in research are critical to identifying the barriers to movement breaks and developing real-world solutions. But we hope this project also fast-tracks a broader conversation about a cultural reset, one that would require collective effort. We shouldn't accept sacrificing our general mental and physical well-being just because society has come to regard constant sitting as the norm.

Now that everyone knows sitting too much is bad, what if it were acceptable to stand up in the midst of an endless Zoom meeting and shuffle side to side? Instead of admonishing kids about their screen time, what if we asked them whether they got their "stroll time" each day?

We used to accommodate smoke breaks, and these days few of us bat an eye if someone in a meeting looks at their phone. Behaviors, good and bad, are often contagious, but we need workplaces and schools to be willing collaborators in making time and space for movement. Our institutions need to encourage anyone who wants to change their relationship with their chair and devices.

The World Health Organization estimates that if we stay this sedentary, nearly 500 million people will develop heart disease, obesity, diabetes or other noncommunicable diseases this decade, costing governments $27 billion annually. Just as important, we'll be condoning the disembodied way so many of us are living right now, denying the next generation the simple joys of feeling strong, healthy and mobile.

*Manoush Zomorodi is the host of NPR's* TED Radio Hour, *the creator of its* Body Electric *series and the author of* Bored and Brilliant: How Spacing Out Can Unlock Your Most Productive and Creative Self. *Keith Diaz is a certified exercise physiologist, an associate professor of behavioral medicine at Columbia University Medical Center and the director of the Exercise Testing Laboratory at Columbia's Center for Behavioral Cardiovascular Health.*

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# How do we shake American democracy out of complacency? States are leading the way

**By RACHEL LEVEN**
Chicago Tribune

*Rachel Leven is a public policy professional and author of the report* Alaska's Election Model: How the top-four nonpartisan primary system improves participation, competition, and representation.

2023 has been a rough year. The waves of violence, natural disasters and conflict over the last several months are enough to make an optimist lose hope. To make matters worse, our political system seems totally incapable of solving these crises. Six in 10 Americans have little to no confidence in the future of our political system, a recently published Pew Research Center study found. It feels like problems are everywhere, and thanks to a stale, uncompetitive electoral system, leadership is nowhere.

At the root of this dysfunction is a political system that exists to sustain the status quo, not build toward the future. The Democratic and Republican parties play the political game so well that only a handful of places in the U.S. experience truly competitive elections. Everywhere else, there's essentially no way to hold party power in check. Last year, a shocking 41% of state legislative races nationwide featured only one major party, according to Ballotpedia.

Because most elections lack healthy competition, the voices that can challenge party power are selling extremism and controversy, not progress and governance. If we want accountability from our elected officials and the ability to respond to the violence, disasters and many more challenges that we'll continue to face, we need to shake the great institution of American democracy out of its self-perpetuating complacency.

A study I co-wrote for the Unite America Institute, a nonpartisan research group, suggests that Alaska's new top-four nonpartisan primary may be the shake-up we need. In Alaska's election last year, all state and federal primary candidates were listed on one nonpartisan ballot. Voters chose one candidate per office. The top four vote-getters advanced to the general election, in which voters ranked their preferred candidates. If no one received a majority of the first-place votes, an instant runoff decided the winner.

As a result, general elections were significantly more competitive. Uncontested elections for the state legislature fell from 24% in 2020 to 12% in 2022, according to our study, making last year's the most competitive election for at least a decade prior. Our research makes clear that this fresh competition, shown across many metrics, is directly because of Alaska's new voting system.

Alaska voters also had the freedom to express a diversity of ideological opinions, which was not possible under the old system. In the primary election, across multiple races, they could choose a combination of Democrats, independents and Republicans. In the general election, they could rank two or more candidates from the same party. Candidates in Alaska had to do more than wear a red or blue pin; they had to make the case to all voters from all parties why they personally were better for the job. More so, our work shows, than in any other state.

Although there is still much to learn, Alaska's reform is the kind of change that—if adopted by other states—could prevent the U.S. House from falling into an endless cycle of speaker votes and keep elected officials focused on working for their districts. The Alaska Statehouse and state Senate established crosspartisan governing coalitions so they can pass critical legislation, such as the state's budget. Freshman Statehouse members from across the aisle formed an informal caucus to support each other as they learned to navigate the chamber.

This is not the first time in our political history that voters have recognized the need for intervention. During the Progressive Era, party primaries were a great democratizing reform. Instead of allowing party bosses to choose nominees, the people would vote in nomination contests. This injected a new level of competition into politics. But with time, the parties found new ways to consolidate power and eliminate competition. While the problems are different from what they were back then, change is just as sorely needed.

Thankfully, a reform movement is growing across the country. California, Washington, Nebraska and Louisiana also have done away with partisan primaries. Maine voters have used instant runoffs, also known as ranked choice voting, to elect their federal representatives since 2018. Last year, Nevada voters approved an Alaska-style reform and must pass it once more in 2024 for it to become effective in 2026.

More and more cities like Evanston, Illinois, are adopting instant runoffs, and still others like Portland, Oregon, are implementing proportional election systems. Though they come in different flavors, all these reforms seek to increase competition and reframe the incentives for leaders. They are all about shaking up the political game.

Now and then, the rules have to change. With each passing year, it's becoming clearer and clearer that the status quo isn't working. If 2023 has felt to you like one long fire alarm without a red truck in sight, then you know, that time is now.

# Holy you-know-what! When did the kids start swearing like sailors?

**By ROBIN ABCARIAN**
Los Angeles Times

The other morning, on the way to school, my eighth-grade niece was regaling me with stories about the costumes kids wore on Halloween. One classmate, she said, came dressed as a "sexy-ass rabbit."

I was taken aback, but not by the image of a middle schooler in a body suit with bunny ears. When, I began to wonder, did my niece start so casually salting her language with—well—salty language?

In truth, it's been happening for a while. The better question, probably, is when did she start feeling comfortable using foul language around me? Or, better still, when did I start feeling comfortable using foul language around her?

For the five years she's lived with me, she has often overheard me swearing in conversations with friends. I tend to use the F-word the way teenagers use the word "like." For me, it's the perfect filler. It contains multitudes; it's a punctuation, a way to emphasize a point. It can be used in anger, in sympathy or in glee (eff-yeah!).

"Language, Auntie!" she will say, prompting a—yes, I know, hypocritical—lecture from me on why it's OK for me to say things that she can't.

When I asked her whether she uses that kind of language in class, she looked shocked. "Never, Auntie," she said solemnly.

"Children are really good at code-switching, that is, knowing what kind of language they are supposed to use when," says Emma Byrne, an expert on robotics and artificial intelligence who wrote the 2017 book "Swearing Is Good for You: The Amazing Science of Bad Language."

When my niece was in elementary school, one of her classmates was a tiny, angelic-looking little boy whose cover was completely blown when I took a look at their group texts. That tiny angel, who was dealing with upheaval in his family life, swore like a drunken sailor.

"If you've suddenly noticed your kid is swearing, talking to them about the emotions behind swearing seems to be the best thing we can do," Byrne told me during a Zoom conversation from London, where she lives.

She became interested in swearing while working on brain models with neuroscientists.

"I realized that one of the most salient things that shapes how we think is our anticipation of pain and our avoidance of pain," she said. Studies have shown that swearing can work as "a really effective painkiller," she said.

It turns out that people can keep their hands immersed in ice water for half as long again when they are swearing. "They also report that the ice feels less cold," she said. "The swearing really seems to help with analgesia."

The enduring interest in blue speech has led to a surprisingly large body of academic research.

"I was astonished, and still am, by how much work is being produced and how many fields it touches on: neuroscience, psychology, surgery, history, primatology," Byrne said. (Yes, primates swear too.) "It turns out that swearing is a really useful indicator of emotional states, what's going on in the brain and even in our culture."

Anyone seeking to learn about foul language will find no dearth of books, mostly investigating the history and evolution of cussing. Of course, not everyone thinks swearing is salutary. The 2000 book "Cuss Control: The Complete Book on How to Curb Your Cursing" posits that the widespread use of foul language has contributed to the decline of civility and good manners. (Perhaps not coincidentally, the book appears to be out of print.)

In 2021, the linguist John McWhorter published "Nine Nasty Words: English in the Gutter—Then, Now, and Forever." Suffice to say there is plenty of crossover with George Carlin's infamous list of the seven words you can't say on television.

Not much of the research focuses specifically on children, but it's absolutely no surprise that children as young as 2 indulge.

Sometimes they do so unwittingly, as in the widely seen Instagram video that shows a little girl looking out her window and saying, "A [F-word] goat outside."

"It's just a goat," her mother says.

"No," says the toddler. "It's a [F-word] goat."

And sometimes children who use foul language know exactly what they are doing.

One of my nephews discovered the shock value of cursing when he was about 4 years old. From the back seat one day, strapped into his safety seat, he spewed the F-word with relish. In my rearview mirror, I saw that he was looking at me expectantly, waiting for a reaction.

It was my job, as the responsible adult, to neutralize the situation by not reacting at all. But it took all the self-restraint I had not to burst out laughing.

Sometimes kids just viscerally understand that nothing but a swear word will drive home their point.

The first time Byrne heard her child swear was in a busy restaurant when her family was on holiday. Her daughter, 2½ at the time, was unhappily trapped in a high chair.

"I made this deal," said Byrne, "that if she would please stay in this high chair, as soon as we are finished, we will go outside and you can have a run around. You just need to be patient."

As Byrne chatted with her husband and sipped a glass of wine, she heard a "beautiful, well-articulated voice" with a cadence that sounded very much like her own: "Mommy, get me out of this f—ing high chair."

At that moment, said Byrne, "I was really thankful that she had the ability to communicate the extent of her feelings that didn't involve hurling a plate across the restaurant."

She knew that using the two most potent syllables in the English language was the most effective way to make her point.

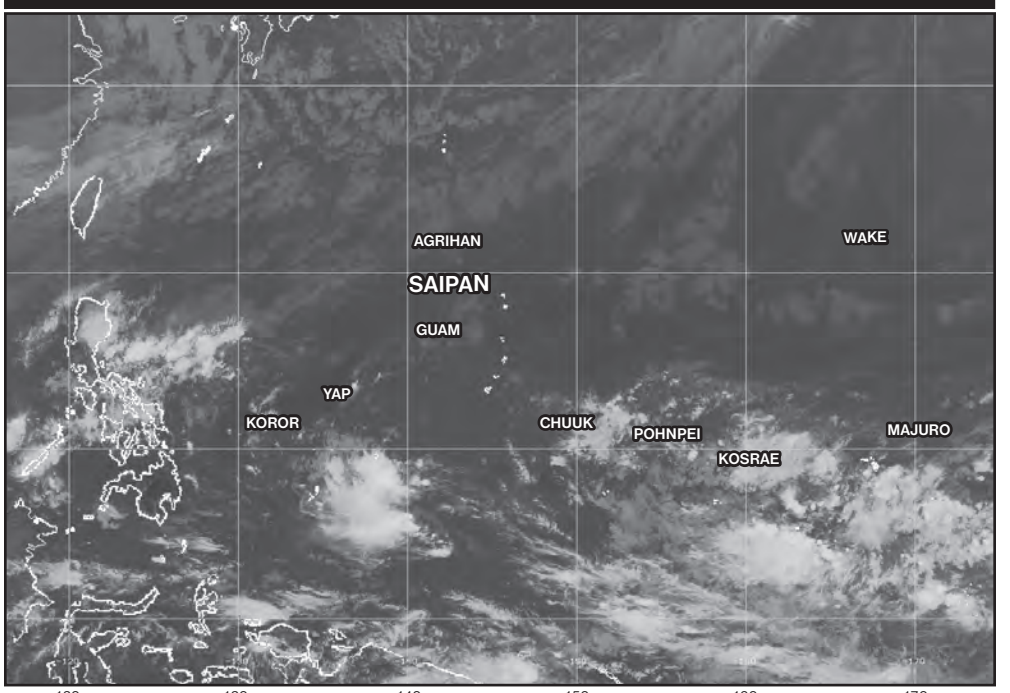
To her credit, that toddler actually used her words.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. | Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. | Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. |
| 88 / 78° | 88 / 78° | 87 / 78° | 87 / 78° | 87 / 78° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 9:31 AM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Doppler radar indicates small, short-lived, isolated showers through out the Marianas. Altimetry shows combined seas near 6 to 7 feet to the far west. Ipan buoy shows 6 to 7 feet.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/*

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | 84° / 78° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 84° / 78° |
| Yap | Partly Cloudy | 84° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 87° / 80° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 86° / 78° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 86° / 78° |
| Majuro | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 81° |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:18 AM | 5:44 PM |
| Thursday | 6:18 AM | 5:44 PM |
| Friday | 6:19 AM | 5:44 PM |
| Saturday | 6:19 AM | 5:44 PM |
| Sunday | 6:20 AM | 5:43 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | 7:47 AM | 7:10 PM | - |
| Thursday | 8:48 AM | 8:08 PM | - |
| Friday | 9:49 AM | 9:10 PM | - |
| Saturday | 10:48 AM | 10:13 PM | - |
| Sunday | 11:41 AM | 11:15 PM | - |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Showers | 66° / 61° |
| Beijing | Sunny | 64° / 37° |
| Hong Kong | Partly Cloudy | 79° / 72° |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | 83° / 72° |
| London | Sunny | 52° / 43° |
| Los Angeles | Showers | 63° / 55° |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 88° / 79° |
| Melbourne | Cloudy | 57° / 48° |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 81° / 74° |
| New York | Rain | 72° / 50° |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | 72° / 59° |
| Paris | Mostly Sunny | 52° / 36° |
| Busan | Partly Cloudy | 66° / 55° |
| Rome | Partly Cloudy | 61° / 48° |
| Salem | Sunny | 83° / 60° |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | 58° / 44° |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 64° / 48° |
| Tokyo | Sunny | 68° / 55° |
| Washington, DC | Rain | 75° / 53° |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | FEET |
|---|---|---|
| 2:31 AM | Low Tide | -0.48 |
| 9:36 AM | High Tide | 1.77 |
| 2:57 PM | Low Tide | 1.15 |
| 7:44 PM | High Tide | 1.74 |

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA076 | 9:50AM | 10:30AM | Daily |

**SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA824 | 7:05AM | 9:45AM | 1, 3, 5 |

**GUAM-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PR 111 | 5:55AM | 7:55AM | Daily |
| UA193 | 7:50PM | 11:50PM | 2, 5 via Palau |
| UA183 | 7:55PM | 9:50PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3403/2305 | 4:40AM | 10:20PM | Daily |
| UA076/183 | 9:50AM | 9:50PM | Daily via Guam |
| UA076/193 | 9:50AM | 11:50PM | 2, 5 via Guam, Palau |

**SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW308 | 2:15AM | 6:10AM | Daily |
| 7C3403 | 4:40AM | 8:35AM | Daily |
| 7C3405 | 4:35PM | 8:25PM | Daily |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:45AM | Daily |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA825 | 9:25PM | 2:00AM+1 | 2, 4, 7 |

**MANILA (MNL)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA189 | 00:40AM | 6:30AM | 3, 6 |
| PR110 | 10:05PM | 3:55AM+1 | Daily |
| UA192 | 10:40PM | 6:30AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau |
| UA184 | 10:55PM | 4:45AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA189/174 | 00:40AM | 8:45AM+1 | 3, 6 via Guam |
| UA192/174 | 10:40PM | 8:45AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau, Guam |
| UA184/174 | 10:55PM | 8:45AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam |
| 7C2306/3406 | 11:15PM | 3:30PM+1 | Daily |

**INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3406 | 10:10AM | 3:30PM | Daily |
| TW307 | 7:45PM | 1:15AM+1 | Daily |
| 7C3404 | 10:15PM | 3:35AM+1 | Daily |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 08:30 | 09:00 | Oct 21-31, 2023 |
| 1302 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 10:30 | 11:00 | Daily |
| 1303 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 9:30 | 10:00 | Oct 21-31, 2023 |
| 3102 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 11:30 | 12:00 | Saturday & Sunday |
| 3103 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 13:30 | 14:00 | Monday To Friday |
| 3104 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | ROTA | GUAM | 11:30 | 12:00 | Monday To Friday |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | GUAM | ROTA | 12:30 | 13:00 | Monday To Friday |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1201 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 7:30 | 7:45 | Daily |
| 1202 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily |
| 1206 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1207 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1208 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2101 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 2102 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 2106 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2107 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2108 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |

# Business

# Biden hails 'new era' of ties between US and Indonesia

**WASHINGTON** (AP)— President Joe Biden celebrated a "new era" in the relationship between the United States and Indonesia as he met with Indonesian President Joko Widodo at the White House on Monday, formalizing closer ties with the world's third largest democracy and a heavyweight player in Southeast Asia.

The announcement is a reflection of U.S. commitment to the region before Biden heads to San Francisco for a summit of Asian leaders, where he's scheduled to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Washington and Beijing have been jockeying for influence in Southeast Asia, which is a critical crossroads for trade and a potential flashpoint for global conflict.

"This will mark a new era in relations between the United States and Indonesia across the board," Biden said, sitting next to Widodo.

He added that Widodo, the leader of a tropical archipelago, mentioned that he was cold when he stepped out of his vehicle at the White House. Biden joked, "I told him I could take care of that immediately," and there was a roaring fire in the Oval Office fireplace.

AP

President Joe Biden meets with Indonesia's President Joko Widodo in the Oval Office of the White House, Monday, Nov. 13, 2023, in Washington.

Biden and Widodo shared an afternoon tea and met with top advisers as they began their new strategic partnership. Also on the agenda was expanding the trade of critical minerals like nickel, which can be used to produce electric vehicle batteries. Indonesia is the world's largest producer of nickel.

Widodo described the U.S. as one of Indonesia's most important partners, and he said they must give "real meaning" to their strengthened relationship.

But there were also signs of friction over the war between Israel and Hamas. Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim country, and Widodo arrived in Washington after attending a summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where leaders criticized the Israeli bombardment and invasion of Gaza.

Widodo urged the U.S. "to do more to stop the atrocities in Gaza and have a ceasefire for the sake of humanity."

Biden has resisted calls for a ceasefire, although he's asked Israel to show more restraint in its military operations and called for pauses in the fighting that would allow the delivery of humanitarian aid or the release of hostages held by Hamas.

The White House has cultivated ties with Indonesia in recent years. Biden attended the Group of 20 summit in Bali last year, and Vice President Kamala Harris attended a regional summit in Jakarta in September.

Before visiting the White House, Widodo stopped at Georgetown University, which is planning a new program in Indonesia. Widodo has described improving educational opportunities as critical for his country's development.

He said a closer relationship with the U.S. could pay dividends because "the United States is a big country, and its influence to any other country is also very big."

But he also was careful to emphasize Indonesia's neutrality at a time of tension between Washington and Beijing.

"Indonesia is always open to cooperate with any country, and not to take the side of any power, except to take the side of peace and humanity," he said.

Widodo also raised alarms about the death toll in Gaza, mentioning estimates that a child is killed every 10 minutes.

"Human life seems meaningless, but for me, every life is precious," he said. "This is a humanitarian problem, and to end it requires global solidarity, global leadership which prioritizes humanity."

## S. Korea's Yoon will warn APEC leaders about risks of Russia-N. Korea arms deal

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)— South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol slammed the purported illicit arms deal between North Korea and Russia, saying he'll emphasize its far-reaching security implications and discuss international response during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco this week.

In written responses to questions from The Associated Press ahead of the APEC meeting, Yoon also said that North Korean provocations will invite immediate retaliation by South Korean and U.S. forces. There are concerns that North Korea might miscalculate and make a move against the South while the world is focused on the conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine.

"An effective way to prevent North Korea from miscalculating is to demonstrate our robust deterrence capabilities and determination towards North Korea based on the solid ROK-U.S. joint defense posture," Yoon said, using the initials of South Korea's formal name, the Republic of Korea.

"North Korea's provocations will not only fail to achieve its intended goal but also result in immediate and strong retaliation from the ROK-U.S. alliance," he said.

There are concerns that Russia's protracted war on Ukraine and the raging conflict between Israel and Hamas are adding to complexities and uncertainties over the security situation on the Korean Peninsula.

Some experts say North Korea's reported pursuit of sophisticated Russian weapons technologies in return for its supply of conventional arms for Russia's war in Ukraine could help the North modernize its nuclear-capable missiles targeting South Korea and the U.S. The experts also worry that Washington's preoccupation with Ukraine and Israel might prompt North Korea to conclude that the U.S. security posture on the Korean Peninsula has weakened and launch surprise attacks or other provocations against South Korea.

Since taking office in May last year, Yoon, a conservative, has made a reinforced military partnership with the U.S. the center of his foreign policy in response to North Korea's evolving nuclear threats. Yoon said that North Korea has test-launched a total of 87 ballistic missiles since his inauguration.

Despite this, many foreign analysts assess North Korea still doesn't possess functioning nuclear-tipped missiles. But they say that Russian support could help North Korea overcome the last remaining technological hurdles to acquire such weapons.

Both North Korea and Russia have dismissed as groundless the speculated weapons transfer deal, which would violate U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban any arms trade to and from North Korea.

"These two countries' military cooperation ... not only poses a serious threat to the security of the Korean Peninsula, Northeast Asia and Europe but also undermines the universal rules-based international order," Yoon said.

At meetings with many world leaders during the 21-member APEC meeting, Yoon said he'll underscore such diverse security threats posed by the "illegal" North Korean-Russian cooperation and discuss ways to strengthen cooperation.

One area where North Korea is believed to be receiving Russian technological assistance is a spy satellite launch program. After two consecutive failures to put its first military spy satellite into orbit in recent months, North Korea vowed to make a third launch attempt in October. But it didn't follow through. South Korean officials suspect it that was likely because North Korea has begun receiving Russian help.

Yoon said the main objective of North Korea's spy satellite launch, which involves a rocket, is to advance its nuclear delivery vehicle. He cited U.N. bans on any satellite launches by North Korea, because the world body views them as cover for testing its long-range missile technology. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un previously said he needed a spaced-based surveillance system to better monitor South Korean and U.S. activities and enhance the attack capability of his nuclear missiles.

"If North Korea succeeds in launching the military reconnaissance satellite, it would signify that North Korea's ICBM (intercontinental ballistic missile) capabilities have been taken to a higher level," Yoon said. "Therefore, we will have to come up with reinforced countermeasures."

## Talks on landmark treaty to end global plastic pollution ongoing

**NAIROBI, Kenya** (AP)— Efforts to create a landmark treaty to end global plastic pollution advanced Monday in Kenya's capital as nations, plus petrochemical companies, environmentalists and others affected by the pollution gathered to discuss draft language for the first time.

The gathering in Nairobi is the third in a compressed five-meeting schedule intended to complete negotiations by the end of next year.

"The urgency of addressing plastic pollution cannot be overstated," said Gustavo Adolfo Meza-Cuadra Velasquez, chair of the negotiating committee, at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi. "To bring a difference at the scale required, we must work collectively."

Kenya's President William Ruto called the treaty "the first domino" in a shift away from plastic pollution.

But the negotiations have been strained by concerns over delays in discussing the plastics issue at hand. In the last round of talks in Paris, talks stalled for about two days as some countries hampered discussions.

The power dynamics and positions of different delegations became clear in the first two rounds of talks in Paris and Punta del Este, Uruguay. They echo some of the same positions as in international climate talks, and with good reason — many of the players are the same. Plastic is largely made from crude oil and natural gas, giving oil-producing countries and companies a large stake in any treaty.

Global negotiators last met in Paris in June and agreed to produce initial treaty text before reconvening in Nairobi. The draft was published in early September. The U.N. Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution is charged with developing the first international, legally binding treaty on plastic pollution on land and at sea.

Kenya is a global leader in fighting plastic pollution, and in 2017, the country banned the manufacture, sale and use of single-use plastic bags. In what is one of the strictest bans on the products, lawbreakers face fines and up to four years in jail.

Two years later, Kenya banned single-use plastic like cutlery, straws and PET bottles from parks, forests, beaches and other protected areas. Kenya is also an important player in environmental matters as home to UNEP's headquarters. The country generates more than 70% of its electricity from renewable sources.

# Nation

# 2024 GOP presidential field is rapidly shrinking

## » Is it too late to stop Trump?

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** (AP)—The Republican Party's once-crowded 2024 presidential primary field has suddenly shrunk to just a handful of viable candidates.

But a day after Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina stunned many of his own staff by suspending his campaign, it's unclear whether the GOP is any closer to coalescing behind a clear alternative to former President Donald Trump. Instead, the fight between Nikki Haley and Ron DeSantis for a distant second place appears to be intensifying. And some lower-tier candidates insist on battling for relevance, despite growing pressure to bow out of the race altogether.

Meanwhile, Trump's team is cheering on the muddle for second place with Iowa's Jan. 15 kickoff caucuses just two months away.

Still, there were new positive signs on Monday for Haley, Scott's South Carolina rival, who had been rising in the Republican contest even before the senator's sudden announcement.

Billionaire investor Stanley Druckenmillier, who had given money to Scott, pledged his support for Haley during a Monday interview as he spoke publicly about the 2024 race for the first time. He emphasized the need for the GOP to coalesce behind the former United Nations ambassador before primary voting begins.

"Now I'm hoping the field clears and it's Nikki Haley one-on-one with the former president," Druckenmillier told The Associated Press. "As long as the field is cleared before the actual primaries, I think that's what's important."

But DeSantis is showing no signs of going away as he narrows his focus on Iowa's leadoff caucuses.

The Florida governor's spokesperson, Andrew Romeo, says he has a new opportunity in Iowa with Scott and former Vice President Mike Pence out of the race. He pointed to Iowa's influential group of religious conservatives who have warmed to DeSantis' strong opposition to abortion and LGBTQ rights as part of his aggressive "war on woke."

Just last week, DeSantis scored the biggest endorsement of the 2024 campaign by nabbing the backing of Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, who promises to lend the Florida governor her folksy charm — and her statewide political machine.

"Tim Scott and Mike Pence were surging resources in Iowa, looking to attract evangelical supporters, and unlike Nikki Haley, Ron DeSantis is making headway with those voters," Romeo said. "In the coming weeks, these voters will see that Nikki Haley's record and values don't match her rhetoric."

The prominence of the Haley-DeSantis feud underscores just how quickly the 2024 Republican field has winnowed compared to the last time Trump was on the ballot.

At this time in the 2016 primary season, 13 Republican presidential candidates were still competing on the debate stage across two nights. The 2024 primary season opened with eight Republicans in the opening debate this August, while no more than four are expected to qualify for next month's debate in Alabama: Haley, DeSantis, conservative entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy and former New Jersey Gov. Christie.

AP

Republican presidential candidates former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis talk during a Republican presidential primary debate hosted by NBC News, Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023, at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in Miami.

## Supreme Court says it's adopting code of ethics, but has no means of enforcement

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The Supreme Court on Monday adopted its first code of ethics, in the face of sustained criticism over undisclosed trips and gifts from wealthy benefactors to some justices, but the code lacks a means of enforcement.

The policy, agreed to by all nine justices, does not appear to impose any significant new requirements and leaves compliance entirely to each justice.

Indeed, the justices said they have long adhered to ethics standards and suggested that criticism of the court over ethics was the product of misunderstanding, rather than any missteps by the justices.

"The absence of a Code, however, has led in recent years to the misunderstanding that the Justices of this Court, unlike all other jurists in this country, regard themselves as unrestricted by any ethics rules," the justices wrote in an unsigned statement that accompanied the code. "To dispel this misunderstanding, we are issuing this Code, which largely represents a codification of principles that we have long regarded as governing our conduct."

The ethics issue has vexed the court for several months, over a series of stories questioning the ethical practices of the justices. Many of those stories focused on Justice Clarence Thomas and his failure to disclose travel, other hospitality and additional financial ties with wealthy conservative donors including Harlan Crow and the Koch brothers. But Justices Samuel Alito and Sonia Sotomayor also have been under scrutiny.

In September, Justice Elena Kagan acknowledged that there were disagreements among the justices over the contents of an ethics code, but did not specify what they were. The justices achieved unanimity Monday, but predictably offered no explanation for how they got there.

Liberal critics of the court were not satisfied, with one group saying the code "reads a lot more like a friendly suggestion than a binding, enforceable guideline."

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., one of the loudest voices complaining about the court's ethical shortcomings, was among several leading Democrats who mixed praise for the court with a call to do more.

## Poll says 1 in 3 US Pacific Islanders, Asians faced racial abuse this year

By TERRY TANG and LINLEY SANDERS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Despite ongoing advocacy and legislation to combat anti-Asian racism that arose after the pandemic, about a third of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders say they have experienced an act of abuse based on their race or ethnicity in the last year, including being on the receiving end of verbal harassment, slurs, physical threats or cyberbullying.

A new poll from AAPI Data and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds 15% of Asian American and Pacific Islanders specifically say they believe they have ever been the victim of a hate crime. About half—51%—believe racism is an "extremely" or "very serious" problem in the U.S.

From as early as a decade ago to as recently as two weeks ago, Jennifer Lee, a 29-year-old Filipino American in San Diego, can recall being called racial slurs and being discriminated against. She recently interviewed for a job at a tutoring service.

The interviewer assumed Lee was Japanese and said: "You people are always so obedient. Why? That's so pathetic," she shared.

About 2 in 10 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (23%) say they have experienced being verbally harassed or abused in the last year, and 22% have been called a racial or ethnic slur. About 1 in 10 say they have been physically assaulted or threatened physically. About a third of Asian American and Pacific Islanders say they often or sometimes face discrimination because of their race or ethnicity when applying for jobs.

Last month, the FBI reported an overall 7% increase in hate crimes, even as the agency's data showed anti-Asian incidents in 2022 were down 33% from 2021. That seeming contradiction doesn't surprise Stephanie Chan, director of data and research at Stop AAPI Hate, an advocacy group.

"We know that Asian Americans are among the most likely to not report the crime that they've experienced," Chan said. "It's really sobering to see that even when the world seems to have returned to normal, after the pandemic, these levels are still really elevated in terms of anti-Asian American hate."

The poll also shows President Joe Biden gets mediocre ratings from Asian Americans, who viewed him favorably at 52%. That's still higher than U.S. adults overall who viewed the president favorably at 44% in a June AP-NORC poll. Vice President Kamala Harris, who is of Asian American and African American descent, is also seen favorably by about half (47%) of Asian Americans.

Lee, a Democrat, believes the president should be a role model and not turn a blind eye to racism. But she has reservations about Biden, who is just shy of his 81st birthday, filling that role.

"It seems like he's more performative and he's trying to say whatever the people want to hear. Also, I understand he's of an older age, not that all people of that age are Joe Biden. But mentally, I think he's not all there," Lee said.

"Asian Americans are really no different than the national mood, which is Biden favorability is low," said Natalie Masuoka, professor of political science and Asian American Studies at UCLA. "The relatively lower favorability for Biden actually could impact turnout at lower-level offices."

The lukewarm feelings about Biden should be a warning for the Democratic Party not to take AAPI voters, who tend to be mostly Democrats, for granted, Masuoka added.

Still, former President Donald Trump, who is seeking a rematch with Biden, fares even worse than the current commander-in-chief, with 7 in 10 saying they have an unfavorable opinion of Trump. No current Republican candidate asked about in the poll is viewed favorably by more than 1 in 4, while two candidates of Indian descent—Vivek Ramaswamy and Nikki Haley—each remain largely unknown by at least 4 in 10 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Thomas Lee, of Long Island, New York, fears the possibility of Trump getting reelected could lead to an increase in discrimination and hate crimes.

# World

## Patients, including babies, stranded as battles rage around Gaza hospitals

**KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip** (AP)—Battles between Israel and Hamas around hospitals forced thousands of Palestinians to flee from some of the last perceived safe places in northern Gaza, stranding critically wounded patients, newborns and their caregivers with dwindling supplies and no electricity, health officials said Monday.

With Israeli forces fighting in the center of Gaza City, the territory's main city, both sides have seized on the plight of hospitals as a symbol of the larger war, now in its sixth week. The fighting was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 surprise attack into Israel, whose response has led to thousands of deaths—and much destruction—across Gaza.

Israel accuses Hamas of using hospitals as cover for its fighters, alleging that Hamas has set up its main command center in and beneath Gaza's largest hospital, Shifa, without providing visual evidence. Both Hamas and Shifa Hospital staff deny the Israeli allegations.

On Monday, the military released footage of a children's hospital that its forces moved into over the weekend, showing weapons it said it found inside, as well as rooms in the basement where it believes the militants were holding some of the around 240 hostages they abducted during the initial attack.

"Hamas uses hospitals as an instrument of war," said Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, the army's chief spokesperson, standing in a room of the Rantisi Children's Hospital decorated with a colorful children's drawing of a tree. Explosive vests, grenades and RPGs were displayed on the floor.

Meanwhile, gunfire and explosions raged Monday around Shifa, which has been encircled by Israeli troops for days. Tens of thousands of people have fled the hospital in the past few days and headed to the southern Gaza Strip, including large numbers of displaced people who had taken shelter there, as well as patients who could move.

For Palestinians, Shifa and the other hospitals in the combat zone evoke the suffering of civilians. U.N. monitors said Tuesday that only one hospital in northern Gaza is still operating, with the others forced to shut down because of nearby fighting and the lack of fuel, power, water and medicine.

For weeks, Shifa staff members running low on supplies have performed surgery on war-wounded patients, including children, without anesthesia. After the weekend's mass exodus, about 650 patients and 500 staff remain in the hospital, which can no longer function, along with around 2,500 displaced Palestinians sheltering inside with little food or water.

## Russia ramps up attacks on key cities in eastern Ukraine

**KYIV, Ukraine** (AP)—Russian forces have ramped up attacks in eastern Ukraine in an attempt to gain ground near two key front line cities, Ukrainian military officials said Sunday.

Moscow's troops have begun a push to regain territory near Bakhmut, the eastern mining city that was the site of the war's bloodiest battle before falling into Russian hands in May, the head of Ukraine's ground forces wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

Ukrainian troops had recaptured the heights over Bakhmut and made some advances west, north and south of the city since Kyiv launched its summer counteroffensive.

"Toward Bakhmut, the Russians have become more active and are trying to recapture previously lost positions. ... Enemy attacks are being repelled," Col. Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi wrote in a Telegram update on Sunday afternoon.

A Russian Defense Ministry spokesman said Sunday that Russian forces over the previous day repelled five Ukrainian attacks near Klischiivka and Kurdyumivka, two small settlements lying south of Bakhmut. Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov made the claim at the latest of regular press briefings.

Ukraine's long-awaited counteroffensive has so far resulted in only incremental gains and heavy losses, with Ukrainian troops struggling to punch through Russian lines in the south. Meanwhile, Moscow's forces have attempted to press forward in the northeast, likely with a view to distract Kyiv and minimize the number of troops Ukraine is able to send to key southern and eastern battles.

Ukraine's General Staff said that Russian troops were also continuing their weekslong push to encircle Avdiivka, a Ukrainian stronghold south of Bakhmut and a key target since the beginning of the war. It's considered the gateway to parts of the eastern Donetsk region under Kyiv's control. The General Staff said Russia's air force was playing a key part in the latest assault.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### US, S. Korea sharpen deterrence plans over N. Korean nuclear threat

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—The United States and South Korea on Monday updated a bilateral security agreement with the aim of more effectively countering North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats. The move followed high-level military talks in Seoul, where the allies also discussed enhancing three-way defense exercises with Japan and improving information-sharing on North Korean missile launches. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was in Seoul for annual security talks with South Korean military officials, including Defense Minister Shin Won-sik, which were focused on boosting nuclear deterrence against North Korea. They also talked about how the allies could coordinate over broader geopolitical issues, including Russia's war on Ukraine and China's regional assertiveness, Austin said.

### Pakistan opens 3 new border crossings to deport Afghans in ongoing crackdown on migrants

**QUETTA, Pakistan** (AP)—Pakistan on Monday opened three new border crossings to expedite the deportation of Afghans living in the country illegally, officials said.

Nearly 300,000 Afghans have left Pakistan in recent weeks since authorities started arresting and deporting foreign nationals without papers after the Oct. 31 deadline for migrants without legal status to leave the country voluntarily. The expulsions mostly affect Afghans, who make up the majority of foreigners in Pakistan. It has drawn criticism from the Taliban-led government in Afghanistan as well as from human rights organizations. The number of border crossings used to deport thousands of Afghans rose to five after the new facilities were opened in southwestern Baluchistan province, said Jan Achakzai, the caretaker provincial information minister. Currently, about 15,000 Afghans have been crossing the border every day from Pakistan. Before the crackdown, the figure was around 300.

### Ex-PH senator who fought Duterte's harsh drug crackdown free on bail after long detention

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A Philippine court on Monday freed on bail a former senator jailed more than six years ago on drug charges she said were fabricated to silence her investigation of then-President Rodrigo Duterte's brutal crackdown on illegal drugs. The European Union Parliament, some American lawmakers and United Nations human rights experts have long demanded the release of Leila de Lima, who was detained as an opposition senator in February 2017 in what they called political persecution by Duterte and his allies and a major blow to Philippine democracy. Duterte, whose stormy six-year term ended in June last year, insisted on her guilt, saying witnesses testified she received payoffs from imprisoned drug lords. Regional Trial Court Judge Gener Gito on Monday reversed a decision earlier this year and granted the request of de Lima and four co-accused for bail while being tried in a final drug case. Two other non-bailable drug cases against her have been dismissed. Dozens of de Lima's supporters cheered outside after the decision was announced in suburban Muntinlupa city in the capital, where armed police escorts brought her from detention in a security convoy. "It's really an indescribable feeling. I'm starting from zero the life that they tried to destroy," de Lima told The Associated Press shortly after her bail was approved. "This is freedom. It's so precious." EU Ambassador Luc Veron said freeing de Lima from detention was "a significant step for the rule of law in the Philippines" and expressed hope that the resolution of the remaining charges would be accelerated. The U.S. State Department welcomed de Lima's release "after nearly seven years of detention on politically motivated drug charges." Noting that two cases already were dropped against her, spokesman Matthew Miller said the U.S. urged the Philippines to resolve the remaining case "in a manner that is consistent with its international human rights obligations and commitments."


†Pedro Blas Matagolai

*In his new life, he will be met at the gates of heaven by his;*

**Mother:** †Delgadina Blas Matagolai
**Father:** †Manuel Santos Matagolai
**Mother-in-law:** †Kiyoe Goto

*His memory will forever live in the hearts of his;*

**Wife:** Hiromi Goto Matagolai
**Father-in-law:** Yasutomi Goto
**Children:** Patricia M./Bernard P. Nugam
Peter Jonathan G. Matagolai

*Brothers/Sisters/Spouses:*
†Maria B. Matagolai, Children and Grandchildren
Guadalupe M./†Luis M. Cepeda, Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren
Juan B. Matagolai/Lourdes Atalig, Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren
Roque B./†Margarita Matagolai, Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren
†Antonio B. Matagolai
Ignacio B. Matagolai, Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren
†Sophia M./†Vicente S. Salas, Children and Grandchildren
Barbara B. Matagolai/John Tutiy, Children and Grandchildren
David B. Matagolai
Linda B. Matagolai/Steven Van Winkle, Children and Grandchildren
Catherine Aguon, Children and Grandchildren

**In-Laws:** Hidehito/Midori Goto
Mei/Takashi Ando (Souta)
Natsumi Goto
Chisaki Goto

He will be remembered by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces, godchildren, and friends.

On Friday, November 17, 2023, his remains will be transported from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel, Cabrera Center at 7:30 a.m. to Santa Soledad Church, where viewing and last respects will be held. The mass of Christian Burial will be held at Santa Soledad at 10:00 a.m.

The presence and prayers of all family and friends are greatly appreciated.

*From The Family*

# Good Housekeeping

## Working with **wall stickers**

HANDOUT/TNS

Removable wall stickers help to create a graphic element.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS

Bright wall stickers help to enliven a children's bedroom.

**By CATHY HOBBS**
Tribune News Service

When it comes to fun, whimsical ideas for a children's bedroom, perhaps wallpaper is one of the first ideas that comes to mind. While wallpaper is a great choice when looking to bring color and graphics into a space, removal wall stickers can infuse creativity into a space, while providing more flexibility.

### Where to find wall stickers

There are a host of companies that specialize in removable wall stickers. No longer do you have to be limited by size, color and prints, these days there are plenty of choices and sizes.

### How to buy

Measure the area you wish to cover with wall stickers, both the width and height.

Check the measurements for the wall stickers to determine how many stickers may be needed. This is critical to avoid having too much or too little.

Allow for mistakes, order enough to have on hand in case certain stickers need to be adjusted or removed.

### Placing wall stickers

Typically wall stickers require little to no wall preparation, but there are some basic tips that can help make your creative vision shine!

Make sure your wall is free of imperfections as these will show once a sticker is put in place.

Allow for some "negative or white space". It is not necessary for an entire wall surface to be covered.

Use stickers that allow for easy removal, so that you can adjust as needed.

HANDOUT/TNS

Floral wall stickers give the illusion of wallpaper in this children's bedroom.

HANDOUT/TNS

Dots that are removable wall stickers add a playful and whimsical element to this children's bedroom.

Place stickers on walls that have a smooth surface, wall stickers typically do not adhere well to textured surfaces.

Play to your décor. When choosing wall stickers be sure to use stickers that will blend well with the existing colors in your space.

## What do I need to know when hiring interior painters?

**By PAUL F. P. POGUE**
Ask Angi

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Painting is one of those jobs where quality materials matter a great deal. Get name-brand paint (or ensure your pro does) and make sure you pay for the good stuff.

Painting interior rooms offers a fast, relatively inexpensive, and effective way to give your home a facelift. Here are some tips on hiring a painter for your home, what you need to keep in mind if you do it yourself, and a few techniques you might not have thought of!

You can paint one room to spruce it up or reinvigorate your entire home with a complete interior paint job. You'll pay an average of $1,000 for most jobs, but it varies widely based on home size and complexity. Overall, expect to pay about $2.75 per square foot of the room for painting the walls and $4.70 per square foot if you include trim as well as walls.

### Things to Consider

■ **Test Your Colors in Advance**

Different paints work in different ways depending on the surface. Test out a small amount of the color in an area of the wall that doesn't get seen very often, and check out how it looks.

■ **Don't Skimp on Materials**

Painting is one of those jobs where quality materials matter a great deal. Get name-brand paint (or ensure your pro does) and make sure you pay for the good stuff. A few dollars saved right now can cut off years of life from your painting job.

■ **Buy From a Specialty Paint Store if You Can**

You can get good paint from a big-box store, but stores exclusively dedicated to paint are more likely to have staff with expertise that can guide you on this journey.

■ **Consider Hiring a Designer**

Different paints work in various ways with each other. Get a designer or a pro with extensive knowledge of color theory and accents who can advise you on how colors complement each other.

### Questions to Ask

Interior painting is a very visible job that will make big changes to your home, so you want to hire the best possible contractor. Here are five questions to ask to help ensure the best possible job.

■ **What's included in your estimate?**

Having your pro explain your estimate will help you understand each part of your job and ensure your contractor isn't skipping any important steps like prep. Avoid pros who aren't willing to explain their estimate or don't include tasks like prep or cleanup.

■ **Are you insured?**

Insurance will keep you and your home safe in an accident. Never hire an uninsured pro or one who refuses to show proof of coverage. This can make you responsible for any injuries during the project.

■ **Do you prep?**

Prepping is a crucial part of any painting job. Never hire a painting contractor who cannot provide precise preparation details. Skipping this step will result in chipping, bubbling, and peeling paint, which will require extensive re-painting.

■ **How will you protect my home's interior?**

Interior painting projects can be messy. Hire a pro with a plan to keep other parts of your home safe and free of stains. Overlooking protection can result in ruined flooring and furniture.

■ **What kind of paint do you use?**

Most reputable pros will use a name-brand paint. Working with a contractor who uses cut-rate paint can result in premature bubbling, dulling and chipping.

*Tweet your home care questions with #AskingAngi and we'll try to answer them in a future column.*

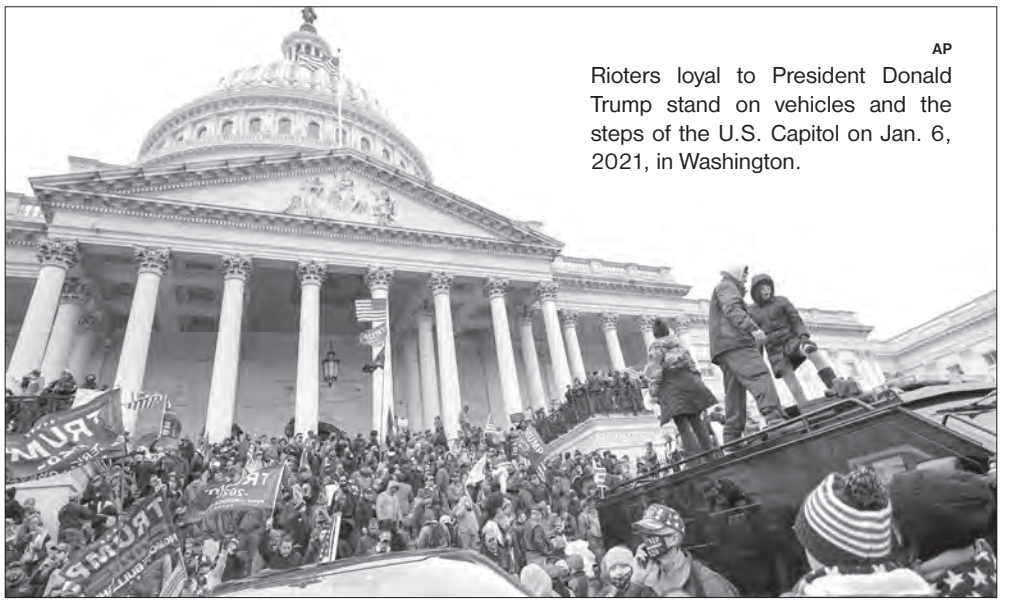
# Life & Style

## Ex-Fox News reporter says he was fired after challenging Jan. 6 coverage

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—A former Fox News reporter says in a lawsuit he was targeted and fired for pushing back against false claims about the riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

In the suit moved to federal court Monday, producer Jason Donner said he was part of a "purge" of employees who refused to only report information that would "appease" former President Donald Trump and his supporters.

Donner was inside the Capitol when the mob of Trump supporters breached the building. When he heard Fox News reporting that rioters were "peaceful" and "severely disappointed," he called the control room, using expletives as he said, "you're gonna get us all killed," the suit states.



AP

Rioters loyal to President Donald Trump stand on vehicles and the steps of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington.

A spokeswoman for Fox News did not immediately return an email message seeking comment on the lawsuit.

Donner also debunked Tucker Carlson's "Patriot Purge," a program on the Fox Nation streaming service that argued Jan. 6 was used as a pretext for persecution of conservative Americans.

Fox managers, though, were focused on wooing viewers who supported Trump, and as Donner pressed his complaints he was was eventually targeted by a manager who accused him of being irresponsible for calling in sick once while he was recovering from a COVID-19 vaccine, the lawsuit claimed. He was fired in 2022.

A longtime Republican who affiliated with Democrats more recently, Donner said he was illegally discriminated and retaliated against because of his political views. He is seeking unspecific damages.

The lawsuit was first filed in Washington's Superior Court Sept. 27 and subsequently moved to federal court.

Fox also faced a lawsuit from Dominion Voting Systems and paid nearly $800 million this year to settle the case alleging that Fox knowingly promoted false conspiracy theories about the security of its voting machines. It is also facing a suit from a second voting-machine company.

The network also paid $12 million to settle with Abby Grossberg, another former producer who claimed that she faced a discriminatory workplace and that the network coerced her into giving false or misleading testimony in the Dominion suit.

A former Trump supporter who became the center of a conspiracy theory about Jan. 6 has also sued the network, claiming the network made him a scapegoat for the riot.

## British judge says Prince Harry's lawsuit against Daily Mail publisher can go to trial

**LONDON** (AP)—A lawsuit by Prince Harry, Elton John and five other public figures accusing a newspaper publisher of using private detectives and listening devices to illegally snoop on them should go to a full trial, a British judge ruled Friday.

Judge Matthew Nicklin rejected a bid by the publisher of the Daily Mail to dismiss the case without trial, saying defense lawyers had not delivered a "knockout blow" to the claims.

The claimants, who include John's husband David Furnish and actors Elizabeth Hurley and Sadie Frost, accuse publisher Associated Newspapers Ltd. of unlawfully gathering information by bugging homes and cars, recording phone conversations and using deceit to obtain medical records.

Harry said the publisher targeted him and the people closest to him by unlawfully hacking voicemails, tapping landlines, obtaining itemized phone bills and the flight information of his then-girlfriend, Chelsy Davy.

Associated Newspapers strongly denies the allegations and asked the judge to throw out the case. At hearings in March its lawyers argued that the claims -– which date as far back as 1993 -- were brought too late and that claimants were relying on confidential evidence the papers turned over to a 2012 public inquiry into tabloid wrongdoing, sparked by revelations of phone hacking by the now-defunct News of the World.

Nicklin ruled that the claimants cannot rely on the documents handed over to the inquiry, which were ordered to be kept confidential by its head, Brian Leveson. They allegedly include records of payments to private investigators by the Daily Mail and the Mail on Sunday.

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Author Sarah Bernstein wins Canadian fiction prize for her novel 'Study of Obedience'

**TORONTO** (AP) — Author Sarah Bernstein won the Scotiabank Giller Prize on Monday for her novel "Study for Obedience." The Montreal-born, Scotland-based author accepted the $100,000 award remotely from Scotland, where she had a baby just 10 days ago. Her novel is about a young woman moving to the remote north where after her arrival, a series of inexplicable events occur. The 100,000 Canadian dollar ($72,000 U.S.) Giller prize honors the best in Canadian fiction. Past winners have included Margaret Atwood, Mordecai Richler and Alice Munro. Just as Bernstein's name was called at the gala, a protester interrupted the live telecast with anti-Israel war slogans, forcing organizers to repeat the announcement.

### Prince's puffy 'Purple Rain' shirt and other pieces from late singer's wardrobe go up for auction

**BOSTON** (AP) — Fans of Prince, who was known nearly as much for his extravagant wardrobe as for his chart-topping hits, will have a chance to bid on some of the late musician's sartorial splendor in an online auction this week. The collection, including more than 200 lots up for sale, was assembled by a French collector who initially hoped to open a museum celebrating the musician but later scrapped the plan, according to RR Auction of Boston, which is overseeing the sale. The collector had reached out to individuals who worked closely with Prince to gather the items, believing that the trendsetting artist, who died in 2016, was not only a musical virtuoso but also a fashion icon, according to the auction house. One of the highlights of the auction is a white ruffled shirt worn by Prince during his 1985 American Music Awards performance of the song "Purple Rain."

### Jon Batiste announces first North American headlining tour, celebrating 'World Music Radio'

**LOS ANGELES** (AP) — Jon Batiste, the Grammy- and Oscar-winning musician and former bandleader for "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" will embark on his first North American headlining tour in support of his latest album. The expansive "World Music Radio," featuring his signature rich blend of R&B, hip-hop, swing, jazz and pop, was released earlier this summer. The tour news arrived Monday, on the heels of the 2024 Grammy nominations announcement: Batiste is up for six Grammys, including album, song, and record of the year. The "Uneasy Tour: Purifying the Airwaves for the People" will kick off Feb. 16 in Portland, Oregon, and take Batiste across the U.S. and Canada. The tour wraps in Miramar Beach, Florida, on April 27.

## Boyfriend's behavior pushes woman's boundaries

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been with my live-in boyfriend for eight years. During the last five months, he has started staying out until daylight, choosing his friends over me, snapping at me when he talks at all and doesn't want to be around me. We have always gone everywhere together and shared our friendships with each other. There's an age gap of 16 years, but it has never been a problem.

I left for a month last year when I caught him talking to another woman through messaging (not platonic talk). That month I did a lot of soul-searching and set boundaries I will no longer allow to be broken. Because of past failed relationships, I have learned how to stand up and voice my opinion and care for myself emotionally. I guess my question is, should I be concerned, keep trying to communicate my feelings to him or move on with my life? I always put him ahead of anyone other than my children and God, but he doesn't give me the same respect.

LOST FOR ANSWERS IN ARKANSAS

**DEAR LOST: Is your boyfriend the person who is 16 years younger? I ask because his behavior is certainly immature. In light of what you have written, it should be clear to you that he is no longer as committed to your relationship as you have been. You stated that you have established boundaries that you will no longer allow to be broken. GOOD FOR YOU. It is time to REESTABLISH them because the treatment you have been receiving is not only disrespectful, but also cruel. You may have devoted years to the relationship, but from my perspective, you have invested enough. Tell him you can see that he is not happy and ASK him if he wants to break up. I have a strong feeling that the answer will be yes.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 20-year-old gay man. I recently started a new job in which I thought I'd be replacing an aging co-worker who is supposed to be retiring "in a year." Every time I have mentioned anything to her about her retiring, she has corrected me, saying she's only going to cut back to a day or two a week. When I was hired, I was told she'd be gone in a month. I'm uncomfortable because she is politically conservative, deeply religious and sometimes moody, which makes her difficult to be around.

I have kept my mouth shut since I have been here only a month, whereas she has been here more than 20 years. I recently found out two other people had been hired for my role before I was, and both quit within six months. Should I stay and wait it out or follow the possibility of happiness elsewhere?

HOT AND BOTHERED IN INDIANA

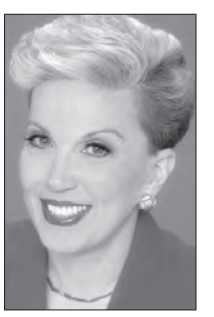
**DEAR HOT AND BOTHERED: Talk with your employer about the circumstances under which you were hired. You were told you would replace this woman and she'd be gone in one month. Exercise a little patience for another month or so and, if she's still there, ask your employer if something has changed because she's telling you she's not quitting. You deserve a straight answer if circumstances have changed. If that's the case and the job is no longer what you thought it was going to be, then "follow the possibility of happiness elsewhere" AFTER you have found a new job.**

■ ■ ■

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

### DEAR ABBY

**By Abigail Van Buren**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

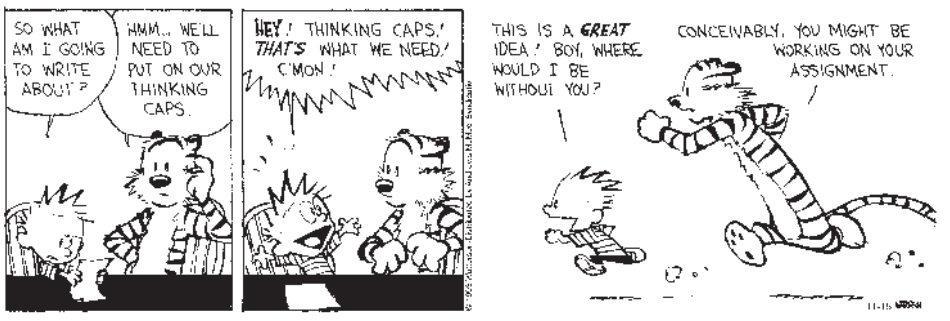


*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SO WHAT AM I GOING TO WRITE ABOUT?
HMM... WE'LL NEED TO PUT ON OUR THINKING CAPS.
HEY! THINKING CAPS, THAT'S WHAT WE NEED! C'MON!
THIS IS A GREAT IDEA! BOY, WHERE WOULD I BE WITHOUT YOU?
CONCEIVABLY, YOU MIGHT BE WORKING ON YOUR ASSIGNMENT.

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

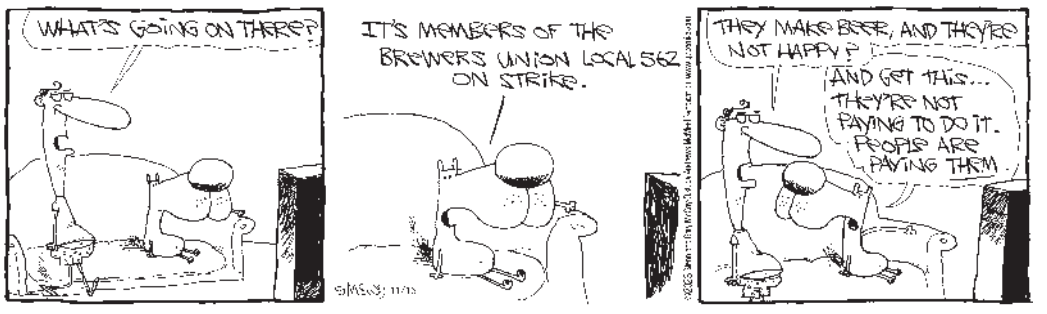
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SERIOUSLY? YOU? AN OFFICE JOB? A DESK AND ALL THAT?
I KNOW. I KNOW.
WELL, THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE BAD. WHAT SKILLS DO YOU HAVE THAT MIGHT HELP IN THE WORKFORCE?
WELL, I KNOW ABOUT 6,000 DAD JOKES.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?
IT'S MEMBERS OF THE BREWERS UNION LOCAL 562 ON STRIKE.
THEY MAKE BEER, AND THEY'RE NOT HAPPY?
AND GET THIS... THEY'RE NOT PAYING TO DO IT. PEOPLE ARE PAYING THEM

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

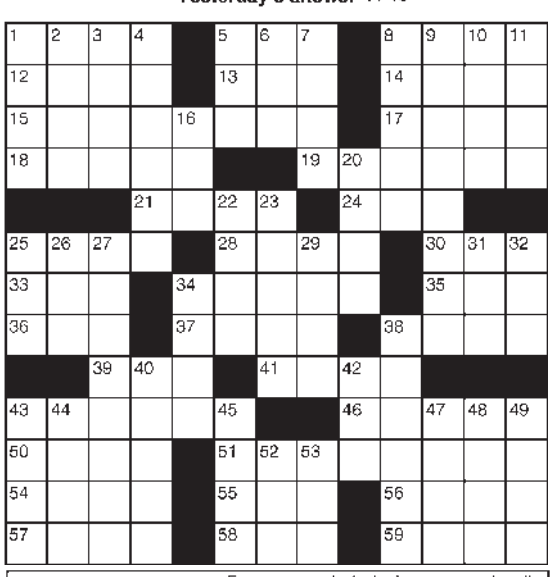
**ACROSS**
1 Barn birds
5 "Terrif!"
8 Big swig
12 Block-head
13 Here (Fr.)
14 Draft status
15 Super ex-hausted
17 Japanese noodle
18 Bed boards
19 Firstborn
21 Faucet problem
24 Scull tool
25 Con-structed
28 — Valley, Calif.
30 Weir
33 Swelled head
34 Scrabble pieces
35 Tin Man's need
36 Witty one
37 Sombre-ros and fedoras
38 Taj Mahal city
39 Thanks-giving dessert
41 Carpet type
43 Make numb
46 Leveling wedges
50 Nick and Nora's pet
51 Team leader
54 Craving
55 Victory sign
56 Member-ship
57 Man-hattan area
58 Verily
59 Makes lace

**DOWN**
1 Prob-ability
2 Scarf material
3 Links org.
4 Avoid a trial
5 Tall tree
6 High card
7 Wait
8 Dutch cheese
9 Winner in an upset
10 Some July babies
11 Huff and puff
16 British verb ending
20 Lane of The Daily Planet
22 Paki-stan's continent
23 Scottish skirts
25 Kitten's cry
26 Khan title
27 Li'l Abner's locale
29 Screen material
31 Melody
32 Org. with a style manual
34 Quaker pronoun
38 Shocked
40 The Gem State
42 Fire sign?
43 Lectern locale
44 Spanish for "this"
45 Dark blue
47 Notion
48 Castle defense
49 Pvt.'s superiors
52 Country music star Green-wood
53 Pot pie morsel

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | E | A | D | ■ | A | M | I | ■ | T | A | C | T |
| A | L | D | A | ■ | P | A | S | ■ | E | T | A | S |
| C | L | A | M | P | E | T | ■ | ■ | M | O | M | A |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | S | I | X | ■ | H | O | P | P | E | R |
| O | C | I | E | I | ■ | B | A | N | E | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| A | R | A | I | ■ | P | A | T | C | H | F | T | T |
| R | O | D | ■ | A | R | T | I | F | ■ | M | F | A |
| S | C | A | R | L | E | T | T | ■ | Q | U | A | D |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | E | B | A | Y | ■ | H | U | S | K | S |
| B | A | L | S | A | M | ■ | C | U | I | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| C | B | O | E | ■ | B | A | R | T | L | E | T | T |
| A | L | O | I | ■ | L | I | Z | ■ | L | L | E | K |
| H | L | P | S | ■ | L | D | O | ■ | S | L | A | I |

**Yesterday's answer 11-15**



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Shailene Woodley, 32; Jonny Lee Miller, 51; Beverly D'Angelo, 72; Sam Waterston, 83.

**Happy Birthday:** Don't let the little things get to you. Rise above and do your best, and positive change will unfold. Step outside your comfort zone if it will take you on a journey that offers answers and the chance to create something meaningful. Discipline and uniqueness will make others take note and support your efforts. Trust and believe in yourself and the plans you want to pursue. Your numbers are 7, 18, 23, 25, 32, 37, 45.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Live and learn. Watch, and you'll get an inkling of what others expect of you. Invest time and money in yourself and learn additional skills to help you land the desired position. Self-improvement will lift your spirits and attract compliments. ✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* If you want something, push your way forward. Don't take a wait-and-see approach, or you'll fall behind while others surpass you. Rely on yourself and make changes that position you in a direction that utilizes your skills to the fullest. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Speak your mind, but get your facts straight -- or someone will take pleasure in correcting you. There isn't much wiggle room, making it necessary that your presentation is impeccable. Don't leave anything to the imagination. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Don't sit on the sidelines; get in the game. Take responsibility and act. It's what you do that will bring about positive change. Use your imagination, look for an alternative and be sure to get what you want in writing. Control your destiny. ✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep a level head when dealing with friends, relatives and peers. Anger won't solve anything, but common sense, compromise and compassion will. Listen, but don't believe everything you hear. Go directly to the source, get the facts and make intelligent decisions. ✪✪✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take a break, look around and try something new and exciting. What you experience today will offer insight into the possibilities that exist. It's time to adjust your life to suit your pursuits. Prepare to let go of what's holding you back. ✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Ask questions, learn as you go and get your details straight before sharing information. Truth will be necessary if you want to attract people who have something to offer in return. Spiff up your appearance to boost your confidence. ✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Own whatever you pursue. You are overdue for a change, and its influence on your life will give you the momentum to see matters through. Don't hide in the background; enter the spotlight and make your dream come true. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Make decisions based on facts, not emotions. Consider who and what is essential, and make a move to rectify a problem before compromising your position or reputation. Take care of matters yourself to avoid interference. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A domestic change will lead to a window of opportunity. Explore your options and secure your position. Trust in your ability to do what's best for you, and you'll increase your chance to get ahead. Thoughts followed by actions will not disappoint. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put any anger aside and concentrate on gathering facts and considering your options. Make a physical move that compensates for any loss or disruption. Protect what you have, and direct your energy where it offers the most in return. ✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* If you evaluate your options based on facts, you'll make better choices. Refuse to let an emotional incident cause you to make a reckless decision that you live to regret. Bide your time, be observant and put your energy into something that offers a positive return. ✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are energetic, versatile and imaginative. You are responsible and formidable.

*✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | 8 | | 9 | | |
| | | | | 6 | 2 | | | 1 |
| 5 | 6 | | | | | 4 | | |
| | 4 | 5 | | | | | | |
| 7 | | 8 | | 1 | 4 | | | |
| 6 | | | | 2 | | | | 9 |
| 4 | 1 | | | | | 8 | 6 | |
| 2 | | 7 | 6 | | | | | |
| 8 | 9 | 6 | 7 | | 1 | | | 2 |

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/15

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 9 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| 7 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| 3 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 |
| 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 2 |
| 2 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| 1 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

Difficulty: ★★ 11/14

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

**GONDOLA RIDES EVERYWHERE** **Solution: 6 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | I | G | H | T | S | E | E | I | N | G | U | I | D | E |
| T | H | C | A | E | B | P | R | I | V | A | T | E | N | X |
| R | E | H | E | L | V | E | W | A | T | E | R | J | I | P |
| I | R | U | C | I | T | Y | K | A | E | P | O | V | A | E |
| P | U | R | N | A | W | S | G | R | B | Y | R | E | T | N |
| E | T | C | E | S | T | N | T | I | E | O | I | N | N | S |
| S | C | H | I | E | I | S | T | S | N | I | A | E | U | I |
| S | E | E | R | S | R | A | I | A | K | C | N | T | O | V |
| A | T | S | E | A | L | U | M | L | F | I | E | I | M | E |
| G | I | L | P | Y | O | A | T | A | T | L | P | A | I | U |
| E | H | E | X | L | Z | E | N | A | R | E | O | N | X | Q |
| V | C | E | E | E | Ⓚ | Ⓒ | Ⓞ | Ⓓ | N | O | K | A | A | O |
| S | R | K | V | I | E | W | O | R | R | A | N | C | T | R |
| A | A | D | R | I | A | T | I | C | S | E | A | A | U | A |
| L | A | N | A | C | D | N | A | R | G | N | A | L | P | B |

©2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 11/15

Adriatic Sea, Amaze, Architecture, Baroque, Beach, Boat, Bucket List, Churches, City, Dock, Enjoy, Expensive, Experience, Float, Grand Canal, Guide, Island, Italy, Lake Louise, Las Vegas, Mountain, Narrow, Nature, Oar, Open-air, Panorama, Peak, Plan, Private, Sail, Sightseeing, Sing, Ski, Sleek, Street, Stripes, Swan, Taxi, Venetian, View, Water

**Yesterday's Answer: Backyard**

Purchase the NEW Treasuries 55 and 56 in time for the holidays at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

# Siakam scores 39, Raptors overcome 23-point deficit to beat Wizards

**TORONTO** (AP)—Pascal Siakam scored a season-high 39 points and the Toronto Raptors overcame a 23-point deficit to beat the Washington Wizards 111-107 on Monday night.

Siakam sparked Toronto's comeback with 22 points in the third quarter. He finished with 11 rebounds.

"He drove us all the way," Raptors forward Chris Boucher said. "It shows how competitive he is, but also how much he cares about this team."

The Raptors overcame a 20-point deficit to win for the second time in eight days. Toronto battled back from a 22-point hole to beat San Antonio in overtime on Nov. 5.

"Every time you come back in a game down 20, it's amazing," Boucher said. "Definitely happy with the win, but we don't want any games like that."

Washington's Kyle Kuzma scored a season-high 34 points but turned the ball over out of bounds after Siakam's late basket gave Toronto its first lead since the opening quarter.

Washington led 107-95 with 5:47 left to play in the fourth quarter but didn't score again. The Wizards missed their final 10 shots from the field.

"We were able to get rim attempts," Wizards coach Wes Unseld Jr. said. "You can't really buy a better shot than that."

The Wizards lost Sunday in Brooklyn, giving up a late 15-0 run after they led by five. Washington has lost seven of eight.

Scottie Barnes scored 19 points, Jakob Poeltl had 13 and Precious Achiuwa added 10 as the Raptors won their third straight over Washington.

Toronto's Dennis Schroder shot 1 for 12 from the field but made a pair of key free throws with two seconds left to seal the win. Schroder finished with four points.

Daniel Gafford and Jordan Poole each scored 14 points for Washington while Tyus Jones, Corey Kispert and Bilal Coulibaly had 10.

AP

Toronto Raptors forward Pascal Siakam (43) drives past Washington Wizards forward Kyle Kuzma, right, during second-half NBA basketball game action in Toronto, Monday, Nov. 13, 2023.

Boucher dunked with 2:59 left in the fourth to make it 107-103, and Barnes cut the gap to two points with a driving basket with 1:29 remaining.

Barnes stole Deni Avdija's errant pass and fed Boucher for the game-tying basket with 51 seconds left, leading to a Wizards timeout.

Kuzma's four-point play in the final seconds of the first half gave Washington a 64-45 edge at the break.

"We ended up winning the game but, to be honest with you, I prefer not to dig a hole of 19 points at halftime," Raptors coach Darko Rajakovic said.

Toronto shot 0 for 6 from long range in the second quarter and had more shot clock violations (three) than made 3-pointers (two) in the opening half.

Raptors forward O.G. Anunoby was unavailable because of a cut finger on his right hand while guard Gary Trent Jr. sat for the second straight game because of plantar fasciitis in his right foot.

Anunoby cut himself working at home on Sunday's off day. Former Wizards forward Otto Porter Jr. started in Anunoby's place.

Washington rested forward Danilo Galinari on the second night of a back-to-back, while former Raptor Delon Wright sat for the second straight game because of a sprained left knee. Wright left Friday's loss to Charlotte and will be re-evaluated in three weeks.

## CELTICS 114, KNICKS 98

**BOSTON** (AP)—The Boston Celtics were missing a lot of 3-point shots. They missed a bunch of layups, too.

Coach Joe Mazzulla would have been happy to make adjustments, but his options were limited.

"If I could come up with another shot besides a 3 or a layup, I'll do it," Mazzulla said after the Celtics snapped out of a shooting funk to beat the New York Knicks 114-98 on Monday night. "You can't kick it in. I mean, we couldn't throw it in the ocean."

Jayson Tatum scored 17 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter, when the Celtics turned a 91-88 lead into a runaway. After missing seven of his first eight 3-point attempts, he hit four straight down the stretch — including a contested one that led to a four-point play after the Knicks cut the deficit to three points.

"I've played enough games, had enough tough shooting nights," said Tatum, who finished 13 for 23 in the game after going 6 for 8 in the fourth quarter. "All really, really good scorers know it just takes one to change your momentum, change how you feel about yourself shooting the ball. And once you see one go in, you just feel a lot better about yourself."

Jaylen Brown added 22 points and Kristaps Porzingis had 21 against the team that drafted him.

Jalen Brunson scored 26 points and Julius Randle had 25 points and nine rebounds for New York, which was without RJ Barrett, who missed the second night of a back-to-back with a migraine headache. The Knicks had won three in a row since opening the season 2-4, including a loss to Boston in their opener.

## BUCKS 118, BULLS 109

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo had 35 points and 11 rebounds and Bobby Portis also had a double-double in the Milwaukee Bucks' 118-109 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Monday night.

"He was phenomenal the whole game," Bucks coach Adrian Griffin said of Antetokounmpo. "We needed him down the stretch, and he kind of took things in his own hands."

Milwaukee's Damian Lillard returned to action after missing two games with a calf injury, though he shot just 3 of 17 while scoring 12 points. The Bucks lost both games they played without the seven-time all-NBA guard.

"I felt pretty good," Lillard said. "If I didn't feel good enough to play, I wouldn't have played. But I think any time you miss time, especially when you're already kind of behind to begin with, it's going to have some sort of effect. But given the circumstances, I felt pretty good."

The Bulls were playing for the second straight night after beating the Detroit Pistons 119-108 at home on Sunday.

Bobby Portis had 19 points and 10 rebounds, both season highs.

Milwaukee's Khris Middleton scored 13 points to enable him to overtake Michael Redd for fifth place on the Bucks' career scoring list.

Middleton has 11,559 points since joining the Bucks in 2013, while Redd had 11,554 in his Bucks career. The Bucks' top four scorers are Antetokounmpo (16,575), Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (14,211), Glenn Robinson (12,010) and Sidney Moncrief (11,594).

"Salute to Michael Redd," Middleton said. "He's been a mentor of mine since I came to Milwaukee. I took over his number (No. 22) a little bit. He's been a great person to reach out to from time to time and talk to."

Nikola Vucevic led the Bulls with 26 points and 12 rebounds. Zach LaVine scored 20, Coby White 16, Patrick Williams 13 and DeMar DeRozan 11. DeRozan shot just 3 of 14.

## KINGS 132, CAVALIERS 120

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** (AP)—De'Aaron Fox had 28 points and six assists in his return after missing two weeks with an ankle injury, and the Sacramento Kings gave coach Mike Brown his 400th career victory with a 132-120 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Monday night.

Domantas Sabonis added 23 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds for the Kings, who swept the Cavs a season ago. Keegan Murray had a season-high 25 points with five 3-pointers.

"It felt like tonight was kind of a night we've kind of been waiting on, where we put it together on the same night," Murray said. "It felt like it flowed really well and it felt good for everyone."

Donovan Mitchell led the Cavs with 22 points despite going scoreless in the first quarter. Caris LeVert had 21 points and Max Strus scored 19.

Sacramento had six players in double figures but the night belonged to Fox, who was repeatedly serenaded with "MVP! MVP!" chants in the second half.

Fox made an immediate impact in his first game back, scoring the first points of the night on a driving layup 11 seconds into the game. A first-time All-Star last season, Fox later scored on a reverse and sank a 3-pointer to help the Kings to a 33-25 lead.

"It felt good just to be able to go out there and contribute," said Fox, who tested his ankle in practice this week and during shootaround. "When I got up today and wasn't sore, I felt I was good to go.

"I felt well enough to go out there and affect the game."

That he did.

Fox came out strong again in the second quarter, then went cold late before giving Sacramento's offense another spark in the third quarter. He had eight points, including an emphatic one-handed dunk off a bounce pass in the key from Malik Monk.

"His play and our play is going to start getting him the recognition he deserves," Brown said of Fox. "The crazy part is he's just scratched the surface of who he can be. When he gets there, look out."

# Sources: Michael Malone agrees to contract extension with Nuggets

**DENVER** (AP)—The Denver Nuggets extended the contract of coach Michael Malone after he guided the franchise to its first NBA title, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Monday.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the team hadn't announced the extension. No terms of the deal were disclosed.

Hired by Denver in 2015, Malone has steadily helped turn the Nuggets into a contender behind the dynamic twosome of point guard Jamal Murray and two-time NBA MVP Nikola Jokic. Malone has gone 375-272 with the Nuggets, which included earning the best mark in the Western Conference last season.

The Nuggets went 16-4 in their playoff run, culminating in winning the NBA crown in five games over the Miami Heat. Jokic was named the NBA Finals MVP.

Malone was a longtime assistant with New York, Cleveland, New Orleans and Golden State before getting his first head coaching job with Sacramento. He was let go in his second season with the Kings in December 2014.

The 52-year-old Malone has led the Nuggets to the postseason five times since his arrival, including two appearances in the Western Conference Finals. His 37 postseason wins are the most by any coach in franchise history.

He's the fourth-longest active tenured coach, trailing Golden State's Steve Kerr, Miami's Erik Spoelstra and San Antonio's Gregg Popovich.

Malone is the son of longtime NBA coach Brendan Malone, who died last month. Brendan Malone was one of the driving forces behind the Detroit Pistons "Bad Boys" defenses in the late 1980s and early '90s.

Michael Malone called his father his biggest fan, mentor and supporter. He said he was thinking of his father when the team raised the championship banner and players received their rings on opening night against LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers.

# Lutz is good on 2nd chance with 36-yard field goal in Broncos' win over Bills

**ORCHARD PARK, N.Y.** (AP)—Broncos kicker Wil Lutz made good on his do-over field-goal attempt, much like Denver has done in rebounding from one of its most embarrassing defeats in franchise history.

Getting a second chance after missing wide right from 41 yards thanks to Buffalo being flagged for too many players, Lutz connected on a 36-yard field goal attempt as time expired to secure a 24-22 win over the sloppy, turnover-prone Bills on Monday night.

The Broncos (4-5) have won three straight and four of six since a 70-20 loss at Miami. And they came out of their bye week carrying over the momentum of a 24-9 victory over Kansas City, which ended a 16-game skid against their AFC West rival.

"We believe in each other. We believe in what we can do," said quarterback Russell Wilson. "To beat the Chiefs, to beat these guys, it sets a standard of who we should be, who we can be, and who we are going to be."

The Bills (5-5) continue to sink out of the playoff picture, having dropped four of six. Forget defending their AFC East title for a fourth consecutive season, the Bills are suddenly in jeopardy of missing the playoffs altogether for the first time since 2018.

"Yeah, I'm still confident. But it's no secret. The clock's ticking. Got to have some urgency now," quarterback Josh Allen said after throwing two interceptions and losing a fumble.

The clock might also be ticking on offensive coordinator Ken Dorsey's tenure after the Bills failed to score 26 or more points for a sixth straight game. It's matches Buffalo's worst stretch since Allen's rookie season in 2018.

"I'm confident. But I believe we can be better at the same time," coach Sean McDermott said, when asked about Dorsey.

And he had few answers on what's required to turn around a team whose offense is sputtering and defense held up for the most part despite missing five starters to injury.

"I think I need a little bit of time here after the game to assess that," McDermott said. "Obviously I'm not real happy right now, so I'll evaluate that in the next 24 hours here and see where that takes us."

McDermott called the too many men penalty to be "inexcusable," because it's a situation the team practices at least two or three times a week.

Lutz was relieved.

"Extremely grateful that we get another opportunity, and you don't get that opportunity every day," Lutz said. So, huge win. Just grateful I was able to get another kick there."

Lutz also overcame his own struggles in a game he missed an extra point by hitting the left upright, and was unable to get another extra-point attempt off when holder Riley Dixon bobbled the snap.

Lutz made four field goals and Javonte Williams scored on a 3-yard run.

After Allen scampered for a 6-yard touchdown to give Buffalo its only lead with 1:55 left, Wilson responded by overseeing a 10-play, 57-yard drive to set up Lutz's field goal for the his 42nd career game-winning drive—the most among quarterbacks since 2012.

The key play of the drive came on third down and 10 from Buffalo's 45 when Wilson—facing an all-out blitz—lobbed a pass deep over the middle intended for Jerry Jeudy, who was clearly interfered with by defensive back Taron Johnson.

Johnson was flagged for pass interference, giving Denver the ball at Buffalo's 17.

After allowing 181 points in going 1-4 in their five outings, the Broncos have clamped down to allow 67 points in their past four. The Broncos have 16 takeaways over their past five outings.

Wilson finished 24 of 29 for 193 yards, including a perfectly placed 7-yard touchdown pass to Courtland Sutton. What initially appeared as if Wilson was simply throwing the ball out of bounds instead landed in Sutton's hands, with the receiver able to get both feet in bounds. The play was initially ruled an incompletion before being overturned upon a replay review.

The Broncos forced four turnovers two weeks after forcing five against the Chiefs.

"It just feels so good to win, man. I'm sitting here thinking about the adversity that we hit, and how everybody kind of answered the bell there," safety Justin Simmons said of the Broncos' down-then-up season. "You're always going to face adversity, it's just a matter of how you respond."

Allen has turned the ball over in all but two games, and thrown an interception in six straight—the longest run of his career. He finished 15 of 26 for 177 yards, including a 22-yard touchdown to rookie tight end Dalton Kincaid.

The turnover-fest began on Buffalo's first play from scrimmage when Denver's Ja'Quan McMillan pried the ball out of the hands of running back James Cook to force a fumble. Allen followed up by ending Buffalo's second drive by having his hard pass over the middle glance off the hands of receiver Gabe Davis, with the ball bouncing directly to Simmons for his 30th career interception.

Allen's second interception came in the final minute of the first half, and on the first play from scrimmage after Lutz hit a 49-yard field goal to put Denver up 12-8.

Allen fluttered a pass up the left sideline that was easily intercepted by Fabian Moreau, which led to Lutz making a 40-yard field goal to close the half.

AP

Denver Broncos' Justin Simmons (31) reacts after intercepting a pass thrown by Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen during the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Nov. 13, 2023, in Orchard Park, N.Y.

# Too many injuries, turnovers, and too many men penalty costs Bills in loss to Broncos

**ORCHARD PARK, N.Y.** (AP)—Too many injuries. Too many turnovers. Too many men.

Too many things continued piling up for Josh Allen and the Buffalo Bills to overcome in a 24-22 loss to the Denver Broncos on Monday night.

The Bills (5-5) turned the ball over four times, with Allen throwing two interceptions and losing a fumble. Buffalo's injury-depleted defense—missing five starters—sagged in allowing Russell Wilson to march the Broncos on a 10-play, 57-yard drive that ended with Wil Lutz hitting a 36-yard field goal as time expired.

Lutz got the benefit of a do-over after his initial 41-yard attempt sailed wide right, but the miss was negated due to the Bills having 12 players on the field.

"It's inexcusable," coach Sean McDermott said. "We practice that two or three times a week, the substitution from dime to field-goal block and at the end of the day, we didn't execute it."

He had few other answers on what might be required to address the many other issues the three-time defending AFC East champions are facing in having dropped four of six and slipping further out of the playoff picture.

"I think I need a little bit of time here after the game to assess that," McDermott said. "Obviously I'm not real happy right now, so I'll evaluate that in the next 24 hours here and see where that takes us."

Second-year offensive coordinator Ken Dorsey's job security remains in question.

McDermott reiterated what he's said in the past that he has confidence in Dorsey, before adding: "But I believe we can be better at the same time."

Dorsey is a first-time NFL coordinator after being elevated from Bills quarterback coach to take over after Brian Daboll left to coach the New York Giants following the 2021 season.

He's now overseeing an offense that has not scored 26 or more points in six straight outings, matching the longest stretch since 2018, Allen's rookie season.

Allen, meantime, has thrown 11 interceptions this season and turned the ball over in a career-worst six straight games.

"Shouldn't have been in that position in the first place," Allen said of the game being determined by a field goal. "Just a lot of bad football. A lot of bad football."

After winning the coin toss, McDermott shifted his strategy in having the offense open the game. The plan backfired on the first snap when running back James Cook lost a fumble. The turnovers continued on Buffalo's second possession when Allen's hard pass over the middle hit off receiver Gabe Davis' hands and bounced directly to safety Justin Simmons at the Broncos 11.

# Former NFL cornerback Hayden, 5 others killed in crash in downtown Houston

**HOUSTON** (AP)—A crash at a red light killed six people including former NFL cornerback D.J. Hayden in downtown Houston early Saturday.

The two-vehicle crash occurred about 2 a.m. when a Chrysler 300, apparently "going very fast, high velocity," ran the red light and collided with an SUV, Houston Police Assistant Chief Megan Howard said.

Five men and one woman died, including Hayden, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Four people were pronounced dead at the scene. Those killed included the driver of the Chrysler and a man who appeared to be homeless, Howard said.

Four people were taken to the hospital and two of them died, Howard said, while one female passenger was in critical condition with life-threatening injuries.

Police interviewed a male passenger from the SUV at the hospital. Investigators were working to identify the driver of the SUV, Howard said.

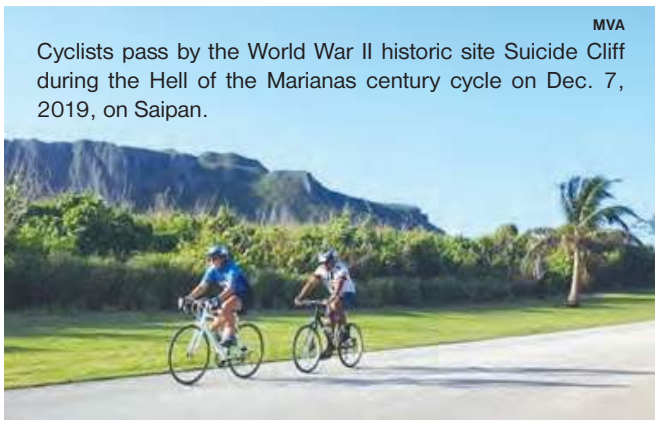
Hayden, 33, was born in Houston and starred at the University of Houston, according to his profile page on ESPN.com. A first-round draft pick in 2013, he played in eight seasons through 2020 for the Oakland Raiders, Detroit Lions and Jacksonville Jaguars.

"D.J.'s courage, perseverance, and dedication to his teammates will be fondly remembered by everyone who knew him," the Raiders, now based in Las Vegas, said Saturday in a statement. "The prayers of the entire Raider Nation are with D.J.'s loved ones at this time."

In 2012, Hayden survived and later recovered from a near-death tear to a major vein by his heart after he and a teammate collided during practice, requiring emergency surgery.

# 120 cyclists and counting for Hell of the Marianas

## » Early bird registration deadline on Nov. 15, 2023



MVA

Cyclists pass by the World War II historic site Suicide Cliff during the Hell of the Marianas century cycle on Dec. 7, 2019, on Saipan.

One hundred twenty-two cyclists from five countries and territories have signed up to ride in the Hell of the Marianas century cycle on Dec. 2, 2023, on the island of Saipan. The early bird registration deadline for the event is tomorrow, Nov. 15.

The race, jointly organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation, attracts cyclists from around the world to take on the island's challenging terrain. Participating countries to date are South Korea, Japan, Russia, Guam, and the Marianas.

As of detailed statistics on Nov. 8, 11 pros—all men—had signed on, including seven from Guam, three from Japan, and one from Korea. Fifty-seven men from Korea, Guam, Japan, Russia, and the Marianas will take on the men's open course of the 100K race, while 26 women from the Marianas, Korea, and Guam will take on the women's open course. On the 50K short course, eight men and six women from the Marianas have signed on, with one more men's competitor from Guam. The short course MTB race—ridden on mountain bikes—has seven challengers from the Marianas, as well. Registrants from the Marianas are all from Saipan, except for one entry to date from Tinian.

Registration is $60 through Nov. 15, 2023, and $85 thereafter for what racers have called one of the toughest cycling events in the Pacific region. Prizes will be awarded for male and female in the categories of pro/elite and age group. Participants will also receive a race T-shirt and entry to the awards banquet.

"The last few years of competition have had limited and largely local participants due to the pandemic. It's great to see Hell of the Marianas back in full force this year with strong international participation," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We're pleased to welcome back to the islands some of our international friends from years past, and we're looking forward to delivering another great race with the same challenging elevation changes and some stunning new views of Saipan."

To register, visit webscorer.com and use Race ID 312625.

The Hell of the Marianas winds its way through Saipan's hills, valleys, and scenic byways. Participants must navigate 4,900 feet of ascents, including steep climbs and fast descents, making it a true test of endurance and skill. The event is open to both amateur and professional riders. The race has become an important part of Saipan's sporting and cultural scene and has helped raise awareness of the island's unique natural beauty and cultural heritage. Begun in 2007, the Hell is considered the ultimate race with professional athletes arriving from Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, Russia, Australia, Guam, and elsewhere to participate.

For more information, contact NMI Cycling Federation president Vince Seman at nmicycling@gmail.com. ***(MVA)***

# Priority Care wins over Office of the Governor

**By CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Mixed emotions filled the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium at the stary of the playoffs of the R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2023 last Saturday as Priority Care took on the Office of the Governor in a tight basketball game that saw Priority Care come out as victors, 74-62.

Starting the third quarter of the game, Priority Care just had a 1-point disadvantage against the Office of the Governor, 30-31. But the team quickly caught up and, with a little over six minutes left on the clock, Priority Care gained a 5-point advantage, 38-33.

The Office of the Governor regained their momentum and moved their points on the scoreboard until they were neck-and-neck with Priority Care at 38-all, giving the crowd some serious anticipation on who would own the next points.

The next four minutes was tight as it could be as Priority Care and Office of the Governor battled it out. The former then recaptured the lead in the final couple of minutes of the third and Priority Care entered the last 10 minutes of the contest with a 9-point lead, 53-44.

Although they put up an impressive fight, and had chances to catch up, the fourth quarter seemed to be drawing of the curtain for the Office of the Governor as they went from a 6-point difference to a 10-point hole in the final minutes of the game.

**Priority Care 74** – King 35, Duenas 12, Rabauliman 10, Manglona 4, Aldan 4, Agulto 3, Elameto 2, Pelisamen 2, Maratita 2.

**Office of the Governor 62** – J. Camacho 20, Taisague 16, Aranda 9, Galarse 7, Flores 4, Bahillo 2, Ogumoro 2, P. Camacho 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 13-14, 30-31, 53-44, 74-62

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Priority Care's Marvin Rabauliman reaches to block an Office of the Governor player from making a basket during last Saturday's R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2023 at the Ada Gymnasium in Susupe.

# SSHS debut strong in girls hoopsGovernor

**By LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays debuted strong in the opening game of the 2023-2024 IT&E Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Mantas bested the Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus, 33-11 from interceptions and more aggressive and accurate drives in the paint.

KHS could only score 4 points in the first half due to a lack of handle on the ball that converted to SSHS steals and field goals, while SSHS put up 11 points.

The second half saw the Lady Ayuyus fighting for their life as Priscilla Tomokane took it upon herself to make the majority of their team's points. However, the Lady Mantas were just more of a powerhouse than KHS as Yasmeen Younis led the team from the perimeter and once from the 3-point line.

SSHS' passing game and ball handling was also more on point as Casey Cruz, Angel Calge, Rosie Saralu, Lency Sagarino, and Deseha Mendiola all got a piece of the pie.

In the end, Younis scored 13, Cruz put up 9, and Calage contributed 3. For KHS, Tomokane had 8 markers, Jayden Pangelinan scored 2, and Charisse Camacho had a point.

In the other game that night, Mount Carmel School slipped past Saipan International School, 39-36. SIS' Kaithlyn Chavez made all of their team's baskets, while MCS' Mia Abuan, Jieun Kwon, Chealska Navarro, Gwen Gamab, Patricia Matsumoto, and Mya Pangelinan distributed their points amongst each other.

The regular season spans until Wednesday, Dec. 6, with the championship tourney scheduled from Dec. 14 to 16.

LEIGH GASES

Saipan Southern High School's Yasmeen Younis looks for an opening in the paint during their game against Kagman High School in the first game of the 2023-2024 IT&E Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

## NMI

*From page 20*

nel Ocanada, Daniell Pablo, Tyler Omelau, Cody Shimizu, Markus Toves, Merrick Toves, Konomi Suzuki, and Jireh Yobech. Accompanying them are head coach Michiteru Mita, assistant coach Konomi Suzuki, team manager Jershwin Angeles, assistant team manager Attao-Toves, kit manager Davy Laxa, and physical therapist Hazel Mabasa.

The women's national team includes Katrina Costales, Mia Abuan, Christina Atalig, Jannah Casarino, Andrei Chavez, Julie Chavez, Bernadette Horey, Khristelle Itaas, Tamia Kileleman-Hix, Tyana Kileleman-Hix, Summer Manahane, Kelsey McClellan, Deseha Mendiola, Pia Ngewakl, Dianne Pablo, Sophia Quintos, Gabrielle Race, Guinevere Borja, Britany Wally, and Rizza Relucio. Accompanying them are head coach Luam Khen Koo, assistant coach Kwok Kei Poon, manager Mikky Vargas, assistant manager Yu Hung Lee, assistant coach Mae Ito, and physiotherapist Pamela Carhill.

## 2023

*From page 20*

third place was Eats Easy-The Game; runner-up was Easy Riders; and the open champion was Checkpoint.

For the masters division, their Mythical 5 was made up of J.R. Barrios and Dick Tibayan as the best guards; best forwards were Joel Javier and Cecilio Bisana; and best center was Ashburn.

The best coach was A Plus Team's Edong Echavez.

The sportsmanship award went to the Win Pacific team.

Fourth place went to Legends, third was JSN; the runner up was Blue Haus; and the masters champion was A Plus Team.

After the awarding, the Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club, and the Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Group, organizers of the league, thanked their sponsors and donors.

Their sponsors and donors were: IT&E, Hawaiian Rock Products, Numbers International, Success International, RNV-Best Deal, Boarderline, Cafe Meraki, Chang Ming, Citrine Restaurant & Cafe, Triple R Auto Shop, Royal Pacific Express, Sophia Althea Jewelry, Islander Rent A Car, Puerto Rico Bento, 9 Eleven Resto Bar, Bourbon Street Bar & Cafe, 5Ps Collection, Meals 4 U, JCE Services, LLC., Multiline Supply, 6JMS Sports Bar & Grill, Blue Haus Trading, Check Point Intl., and 100.3KWAW FM.

LEIGH GASES

Regular season MVP Andrew "Uncle Drew" Ashburn of A Plus Team poses with his trophies during the awards ceremony of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

## TENNIS

*From page 20*

been playing the game for as long as I have," said Ramsey, who has played with and against Villanueva since their junior tennis years.

Both Ramsey and Race welcomed having Wessel and Yu on the men's team to get them ready for the bigger stage.

"I am hoping the competition will serve as a great way for them to gain experience and more confidence so they can represent the NMI in future games and events. With all the wonderful opportunities that are opening up for tennis in the NMI, the future for tennis is bright," Ramsey said.

"This is a great opportunity to get some of our strong young players experience at this level. For Moris Villanueva, Nason Wessel and June Yu, it will be their maiden Games and I have no doubt that they will represent us well," Race added.

The NMI men's tennis team will have its hands full in the Solomons, as the tennis competition will feature players from Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and hosts Solomon Islands. Vanuatu finished second to the NMI in the men's team event in last year's Pacific Mini Games, while Tahiti came in at third. In the overall medal tally for 2022 Pacific Mini Games, PNG had the most medals with six (four golds and two silvers), while NMI took four (three golds and one bronze). PNG also topped the 2019 Pacific Games with a 3-5-0 gold-silver-bronze medal haul against the NMI's 3-1-0, while Tonga scooped up one gold for third place. ***(PR)***

**Siakam scores 39, Raptors overcome 23-point deficit to beat Wizards.**

**PAGE 17**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

**120 cyclists and counting for Hell of the Marianas.**

**PAGE 19**

# NMI nat'l soccer teams off to Solomons and China

LEIGH GASES

The men's national soccer team heading to the Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands, and the women's national soccer team heading to Zhuhai, China for the Women's EAFF E-1 Football Championship 2024, pose for a photo with dignitaries, and NMIFA president Jerry Tan and executive committee members during the sendoff ceremony at the NMI Soccer Training Center on Monday.

**By LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Federation held a joint sendoff ceremony for the first time for its men's and women's national soccer team on Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The men's national team is on its way to the Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands today and is competing against Oceania teams for the first time.

They are in Group C of the 12-team football competition that will run from Nov. 17 to Dec. 2, 2023. They will first go up against Fiji on Nov. 18, then Tahiti on Nov. 24.

The women's national team, on the other hand, is heading to Zhuhai, China for the Women's EAFF E-1 Football Championship 2024, which is going to be held from Nov. 30 to Dec. 8.

They will first take on Mongolia on Nov. 30, then Hong Kong on Dec. 2, and North Korea on Dec. 4.

The ceremony was attended by NMIFA president Jerry Tan, NMIFA Executive Committee members Catherine Attao-Toves, Alex Sablan, and Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan, Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), and family and friends of the teams.

Tan congratulated both teams and said how proud he is of the teams' commitment. He acknowledged that the NMI is debuting against Oceania teams but said they shouldn't think it'll be easy.

"I want to wish both teams good luck. Enjoy Solomon Islands and enjoy Zhu Hai… most importantly, enjoy the experience, do your best, have good sportsmanship. We know you'll really fight for our flag," he said.

For Attao-Toves, she told the women's team, "We're really excited to see how you'll do. You've put in so much work for the past couple years, and I know you guys will get great results. Just continue to do your best, play with all your heart, and I know you always represent us well."

For the men's team, she said, "I'm truly honored to be a part of your delegation… you guys are going to be the ones to set the tone in the Pacific Games and with our Oceania neighbors. So definitely, I know you're going to do well. Let's go get them and let's go NMI."

The men's national team consists of Jerald Aquino, Anthony Bergancia, Dev Bachani, Casey Chambers, Mark Chavez, Mark Costales, Leland Deleon Guerrero, Ruben Guerrero, Akira Kadokura, Wataru Kadokura, Davy Laxa, Zhi Xiang Lin, Brian Lubao, Ariel Narvaez, Jonne Navarro, Nolan Ngewakl, Ron-

*See NMI on Page 19*

## Tennis players take on responsibility, challenge

The NMI will have a relatively different men's tennis team in the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, the Solomon Islands.

Colin Ramsey, Moris Villanueva, and junior players June Yu and Nasson Wessel will represent the NMI to the tennis tournament that will take place from Nov. 17 to Nov. 30 at the National Tennis Court. Reigning singles champion Colin Sinclair (gold medalist in the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa and the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games) could not make it to Solomons this time as the competition coincides with his participation in the ATP Challenger Tour. Collegiate standouts Robbie Schorr, Isabel Heras, and Carol Lee, on the other hand, are tied up with their respective collegiate leagues. Only Ramsey was the holdover from the men's teams that won the gold medal in the Pacific Mini Games and the Pacific Games

"Our ability to field some of our top players who are in college was limited by the timing of the Games. Colin Ramsey is the only holdover from the gold medal teams of the last two Games. He will have the chance to share responsibility for competing and coaching for the first time," NMI Tennis Association president and manytime national coach Jeff Race said.

Ramsey is up for the responsibility and likes the chance to guide young players as they prepare to represent the islands in many more off-island tournaments.

"I feel no pressure in the role I was given with. Traveling with the junior team earlier this year to Guam and Fiji helped me feel more comfortable with the responsibilities of a coach. Although I will also rely on Moris' opinions since he has

*See TENNIS on Page 19*

## 2023 Eagles hoops tourney MVPs announced

**By LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

LEIGH GASES

The Mythical Five of the open division pose for a photo with Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club president Dennis Cortez, far left, and Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Group vice president Maria Arnold, far right, during the awards ceremony of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The most valuable players of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 were announced during the championship awards ceremony held last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The finals MVP for the open division was Checkpoint's Keith Santos for his exceptional plays and consistency, while A Plus Team's Chris Sanchez was the masters division MVP for his pinpoint accuracy and break-neck footwork.

In the regular season, masters division's Andrew "Uncle Drew" Ashburn of A Plus Team was the MVP for his great performance throughout the season. In the open division, Eats Easy-The Game's J.R. Galang was the MVP for his skills and level of play.

For the open division awardees, the "Mythical 5" included Easy Riders' Cris Diwa and Keith Santos as the best guards; Galang and Checkpoint's Coby Santos won the best forward titles; and the best center was Melvin Manibusan.

The best coach award went to Erwin Lumanlan of Checkpoint.

The Sportsmanship award was bestowed on the Homesmart team and IT&E.

Fourth place was CK Saints;

*See 2023 on Page 19*